

Thoughts For Our Time

By His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE WAS NEVER MORE APT

When the ancient dispensation, its predestined course had run, straight from out His Bridal chamber came the Bridegroom, God the Son. Once on earth, with arms extended He embraced His heavenly Bride, and His blessed Mother laid Him in the manger, at her side.

All around that helpless baby animals were standing by; men sang songs of glad rejoicing; angels joined their songs on high, celebrating the betrothal of the Bridegroom and the Bride.

While the Almighty, in the manger, as an infant, wept and cried.

Gems these tears which human nature brought to the betrothal-rite, and the Maid was lost in wonder as she witnessed such a sight.

Man was full of joy and gladness; God was weeping, weak and lone, never before throughout the ages had so strong a thing been known.

—St. John of the Cross.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

It is devoutly to be wished that all, at this holy season, should meditate in their hearts upon the deep meaning and mystery of the Saviour's birth.

NOT A DELUSION

At this time in the world's history, we would do well to think upon the meaning of the word "peace." Does it, perhaps, seem strange to us that the angels should have announced peace when ceaselessly the world has been stricken with War and the fear of War. Does it, perchance, seem that the angelic voices were mistaken and the promise a disappointment and a cheat?

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

REINDEER

In the deer family (Cervidae), famous for the quality of their meat, known as venison, the reindeer are a distinct genus (Rangifer) and are unique in that both sexes possess antlers, those of the female being somewhat smaller.

The reindeer is the only domesticated species (R. tarandus), that from earliest times, probably more than 30 centuries ago, have been raised and used by the Lapps as draught animals.

The reindeer is a large Arctic sub-Arctic deer, native of the northern parts of Asia, Europe and America. It is strong and heavily built, and appears clumsy on its short, thick legs, with its broad main hoofs spread out as it travels over the snow. It has two secondary lateral hoofs that assist the main hoofs as it speeds rapidly through even light snow. It carries its head horizontally instead of erect as other deer.

Reindeer antlers and bones have been found with those of other animals in the Pleistocene geological formations much further south in Europe than their present geographical range, which extends over the northern hemisphere from the fiftieth to the eighty-first degree north latitude. There also seems to be no doubt that reindeer were the animals described by Caesar as being found in the Hercynian forests.

In most species of deer the antlers do not appear until the fawns are nine months old, whereas in the young reindeer they appear within a few weeks of birth. There is great variation in reindeer antlers; there is a "best line" as well as a "brow line" which are peculiar in being either branched or palmate. Some have thought the "brow line" was used to scrape away the snow in winter to secure food, but this is accomplished with their hoofs.

The wild reindeer of Lapland is large, but there is a considerable difference in size in the different districts, with the larger animals in the polar regions. In their natural state the reindeer are gregarious and move about in bands or herds. They migrate to the lowlands in winter and return to the mountains in spring. In the summer they feed on shoots of birch and willow; in the winter they scrape away the snow and live mainly on lichens or reindeer moss.

The reindeer's winter fur is long and of a grayish-brown color over most of the body; the neck, head, quarters and belly are white. In summer the gray hairs darken into

concord of government and citizenry within the state, the agreement of management and labor. The laborer receiving just and equitable return for freely rendered services, the pleasant home, the festive table, the mother lullabying her tender child to sleep?

The disciples of Christ knew no such things. They went forth to distant lands, to suffer by land and sea, to experience torture, imprisonment, disappointment and death by cruel martyrdom.

What, then, did Christ mean? In asking such a question we should remember that He also said: "Not as the world gives, give I unto you." To His disciples, then, He gave peace, but not peace as the world gives.

LIVING PARADOX

The life of the disciple of Christ is paradoxical. In the midst of the most abject material poverty, he is rich with the wealth of the Spirit. In the midst of the most excruciating sufferings from accident, sickness, or oppression, he is inwardly at rest. In the throes of the most shattering sorrow, he is rejoicing within. In the chaos of upheavals of nations and peoples, he is inwardly at peace, with that inward peace which the angels announced and which Christ gives.

The life of him who has not accepted Christ as the fulfillment of man's longing is likewise paradoxical; but in this case tragically so. In the midst of material affluence, it is possible for a man to be inwardly starved. In perfect physical health, with no oppression, he may undergo the most subtle torture. While outwardly hilarious he can be inwardly barren. This follows from this, that he has not a share in that peace which Christ gives, but which is not as the world gives.

There is no contradiction between the peace of Christ and the state of peace described earlier. The latter peace should follow from the former. When the individual citizen is inwardly at peace with God and men with the peace which Christ gives, then it will follow that we will have peace among nations. It will then be impossible to talk of peaceful co-existence, that jejune and loveless substitute for true peace. Then will the nations of the earth bind their fellow-men to themselves with the strong, though gentle, bonds of fraternal love.

Let us make it our prayer at this holy season that all men may find peace with God—that inner peace which the world cannot give, which corresponds to the angelic message: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, to men of good will."

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ARMY COURSE GRADUATE — P. E. MacDonald of Morell, P. E. I. was among a recent group of graduates from a Canadian Army Service Corps course in basic air supply held at Rivers, Manitoba.

CHRISTMAS AT INFIRMARY — A delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, including plum pudding was the menu for the patients at the Infirmary on Christmas Day at which time Santa Claus also paid his annual visit, and made a distribution of individually wrapped gifts to all present.

CHRISTMAS PARTY — On Saturday, December 18, Miss Mary Mayne, R.N., gave a delightful Christmas party at her home in Margate for nephews, nieces and friends of the younger set, complete with tree and refreshments including ice cream and an exchange of gifts among the children.

COLLECTED BY Mrs. Robert Smith Sr. and Mrs. Mary Silliphant. \$2.00 each: Mrs. Mary Silliphant, Robert L. Smith, P. E. Boyle, L. W. Ripley, A. B. Matheson, James MacDonald, Mrs. J. J. Noy, Douglas Smith, Mrs. Percy Boyle.

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In Memoriam

In loving memory of a dear husband and father, Frederick G. Johnston, who passed away December 26, 1952.

We little knew when we woke that morn the day would bring. For the fall was sudden, the shock severe. To part with one we loved so dear.

Ever remembered and sadly missed by loving wife and family.

In loving memory of our dear father, Fred G. Johnston, Murray River, who departed this life December 26, 1952.

You left us a beautiful memory. And a sorrow too great to be sold. But to the ones who have loved and lost you. Your memory will never grow old.

Ever remembered by the grandchildren.

In loving memory of our dear mother, Mrs. Felix Murphy, who passed away Dec. 26, 1946.

A token of love and remembrance of a mother we will never forget. Her memory to us is a treasure. Her love we will never forget.

Kindly remembered by her family.

In fond and loving memory of Walter S. Weeks, who passed away December 24th, 1952.

We do not need a special day. To bring you to our mind. For the days we do not think of you. Are very hard to find.

Always Remembered by Wife and Family.

In loving memory of my husband, Garnet Campbell, who passed away at his home at Rocky Point, December 27th, 1950.

You are not dead life has set you free. Your years of life was like a lovely song. The last sweet notes of which held long.

Ever Remembered by his Wife Ruth.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank all our kind friends who helped us rebuild our barn that was destroyed by wind. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Cairns and Family, Kinkora.

POLL TAX is past due and should be paid immediately.

FOR THE NEW Year's party, formal dress wear in stock at Henderson & Cudmore.

THE FINAL INSTALLMENT of City Taxes for 1954 is due and payable on or before December 31st.

COMPLETE COURSES — Miss Louise Craswell, Charlotetown Hospital and Miss Verma Wood, P. E. Island Hospital have completed their x-ray technician course.

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Personals

Miss Dianna Bell, student at Horton Academy, Whitville, N.S., is spending her Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Melville Bell, De Sable.

R. N. Sabotage On Downgrade

LONDON, (AP)—The first lord of the admiralty said Wednesday 85 cases of malicious mischief have occurred aboard Royal Navy warships in the last three years. Declining to use the word "sabotage," he added that the number of incidents has been on the downgrade since last spring.

The first lord, J. P. L. Thomas, told the Commons "there is no evidence to suggest that any such incidents" were intended to help a foreign power. Some involved smashing of electrical instruments and throwing of sand into ship machinery.

In 1952 there were 12 cases of malicious damage, Thomas said. In 1953 there were 33 and in 1954 there have been 40.

LT-Col. Marcus Lipton, Labor, suggested the number of incidents showed "navy morale" is in a pretty bad way. He indicated he believed some may have been carried out by sailors who wanted to be discharged.

Efforts made during the year to improve the life of navy men include, Thomas said, increases in pay, an overseas allowance and the reopening of discharge by purchase.

Tell Details of Trip to Europe

Miss Lynn Aitken and Miss Alice Fraser of the Prince Street School Teaching Staff, had a trip to Europe during last July and August in company with Rev. and Mrs. E. Melville Aitken of Hamilton, Ontario.

Recently Miss Aitken and Miss Fraser presented a very interesting program in the A. D. MacKinnon Hall, Montague. They showed on the screen a series of very clear pictures in colour, and each of them spoke in turn, picturing in vivid and graphic language the highlights of their travels in England, Wales, France, Switzerland,

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Protestant Orphanage Contributions

Hunter River, collected by Marilyn Smith. \$26.35: L.O.L. & L.O.B.A. church service collection.

\$5.00: Mrs. J. S. MacLeod \$2.00 each: Mrs. Robert H. Smith, Jr., Mrs. Fred Jeffrey, Mrs. Lem Craswell, Mrs. James L. LePage, Chester Sellar, Ivan Bowman, Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Murchison.

\$1.00 each: Mrs. Ronnie Macdonald, Mrs. Ralph D. MacFarlane, George Whitehead, Errol Bagnall, Mrs. James Brown, Mrs. Russell Nicholson, Mrs. Frank Nicholson, Mrs. Borden Bagnall, Roderick McKinnon, Mrs. Everett J. Taylor, Mrs. Cyril Smith, Mrs. Orville Sellar, William Carew, Gordon Carew, Mrs. Steve Burns, Mrs. Don Campbell, Regie Bagnall, Mrs. Frank Bagnall, Mrs. James Gartfield Wood, Mrs. Henry McMillan, Mrs. John Matheson, John Ford.

30c: Mrs. Reagh Ford. Total—\$97.65.

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\$1.00 each: Mrs. Rufus Stevenson, D. C. Montgomery, Hedley Spruce, William MacMillan, A. B. Macdonald, George Nesbit, Dan MacDonald, George MacLeod, John A. MacInnis, Mrs. William P. Bernard.

50c each: Mrs. Murray Orr, Mrs. Russell MacNeill, Mrs. Ray Bernard, Harold Ford, Clayton Tremere, Mrs. Henry Bernard, Harold MacLean, Mrs. Ralph Baglole, Mrs. Vernon MacLeod. Total—\$32.50.

COLLECTED BY Master Roy Whitlock and Mrs. Chester Whitlock. \$3.00: Mrs. Eldon Seaman \$2.00: Mr. & Mrs. Willard Sellar \$1.00 each: Russell Bernard, Rev. C. Moase, Mrs. Lloyd Carew, Wellington Patterson, Mrs. Lillian Smith, Mrs. Roy Mills, Mrs. John Bernard, Mrs. Rena Bernard, Mrs. Janie Gaster, Elliot MacNeill, Master Roy and Brian Whitlock, Mrs. Fred Smith, Mrs. John Craswell, Fred Ford, John Nicholson, J. E. Cousin, R. Warren.

75c: Mrs. Chester Whitlock. 50c each: Mrs. Earl Robertson, Mrs. Wanda Smith, Mrs. Robert Andrew, Mrs. Mildred Bernard, Mrs. Rod Ford, Miss Helen M. Hazard, Thomas Gass, Mrs. Don Bulman, Mrs. Mary Court, Harry Smith, Mrs. Gordon Matheson, Mrs. Wilfred Whitlock.

25c each: Lenro Smith, Mrs. Emmet Bernard. Total—\$29.25.

COLLECTED BY Mrs. Amelia Spence. \$2.00: Mrs. P. J. Noy \$1.00 each: Hedley Spence, C. B. Matheson. 50c: Mrs. Ralph Baglole. Total—\$4.50. GRAND TOTAL—\$133.90.

Scotland, and Northern Italy including Rome. They noted briefly historic incidents connected with places visited.

This program, which was well attended, was sponsored by the Trinity Church Ladies Aid. Rev. J. M. Fraser was the Chairman. Mr. L. M. MacKinnon and Rev. W. A. Patterson expressed the thanks of the audience both recalling incidents in their own travels, particularly in Scotland.

Lunch was served, and during this period Mrs. J. M. Fraser, on behalf of the Women's Missionary Society, presented gifts to Mrs. John Brink, Mrs. Peter Van Shuppen and Miss Betty Van Walnum, on the eve of their sailing for Holland, their homeland. Miss Van Walnum, who had visited her sister, Mrs. Bert Haneveld, of Lower Montague, for several months, plans to remain in Holland indefinitely, while the other ladies plan to return to their homes in this vicinity after a visit with relatives in the Old Land.

OTTAWA (CP)—Edmond U. Butler of Toronto has been appointed assistant to the secretary to the governor-general. It was announced Tuesday. Now with the information service, the federal health department, Mr. Butler will assume his new post Jan. 3.

Timely Notes on Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Hudson's Bay Company fur sales auction in New York last week was a great success. A crowded sales room at the Royal Pastels level up to 10 to 15 per cent above H. B. C.'s EMBA sales of December 9, 1953. Similar offerings of Cerulean and Lutetia each advanced 20 per cent above last year's opening. The auction company reported virtually a 100 per cent turnover of these three major mutations, with strong interest in all types and particularly in females. Foreign buyers contributed to the strength of the sale. The official report follows: Royal pastels, 13, 198 pelts, 99 per cent sold, males advancing 10 per cent, females 15 per cent. Top males brought \$46 and females \$25.50. An offering of 730 Stewarts was 100 per cent sold, reaching a top of \$49 for males and \$25.50 for females.

Lutetia, 339 pelts, 100 per cent sold, advancing 20 per cent. Top prices: males \$48, females \$27. Cerulean, 5064 pelts, 100 per cent sold, advancing 20 per cent. Top males brought \$59, females \$29.

Breath of Springs were 100 per cent sold. Top prices: Stewarts, males \$61, females \$30.50. Breath of Springs, males \$66, females \$32. A small homozygous collection was 100 per cent sold, reaching a top of \$72 for Stewart platinum males.

Royal pastels males sold mainly from \$36 to \$40, with approximately 41 per cent of the offering in that price range. About 30 per cent of sales were in the \$32 to \$36 bracket. A year ago at H. B. C. the \$32 and up bracket was only 35 per cent of the sale as compared with 85 per cent at this sale. Females were even stronger. The \$19 to \$23 bracket included 72 per cent of the offering. A year ago, only 14 per cent of the sale brought \$19 and up. Only 13 per cent of the offering went under \$19. A year ago 86 per cent was under \$19.

Lutetias also showed great strength for a very small offering. Males ranged from \$39 to \$48; females from \$21 to \$27. Impression of the salesroom was that prices were generally running stronger than at the first local EMBA offering here last week.

Bidding was hectic throughout the sale of Royal Pastels, Lutetias and Ceruleans. A further source of buying strength was the presence of a number of London fur men who competed for merchandise and bought what were regarded as fairly substantial quantities. Local dealers went into action, spurred by the knowledge that most manufacturers' stocks are low and that there is a ready market for early skin purchases. Often in the course of the sale, dealers were heard lamenting the fact that they hadn't bought larger quantities at earlier sales in the United States and Canada. Apparently, they felt prices at previous sales were overly strong. But in the light of yesterday's activity at H. B. C. here, the earlier prices appeared easier.

EMBA Silverblus were unchanged to slightly easier at the evening auction of the above sale. Jasmine whites declined sharply. HBC reported. All comparisons are with the Dec. 9, 1953 sale at HBC. Specifically, a total of 5,773 Silverblus were 98 per cent sold, with males slightly easier and females unchanged. Top price was \$29 for males and \$18.50 for females. Some 1,111 Stewarts were 97 per cent sold, slightly easier, with tops of \$36 and \$18.75. A total of 1,038 breath of springs was 96 per cent sold, with males declining 5 to 7 per cent, and females unchanged. The breath of springs were described as an ordinary collection, reaching a top of \$34 for males and \$18.50 for females. A small, fair collection of 743 Jasmies was 78 per cent sold, declining 20 to 25 per cent. The decline in white mink levels had been anticipated because of increased production, but it was felt the HBC offering was too small to give an accurate picture of the market as yet. Males reached a top of \$38 and females \$29.50.

At the HBC auction in Montreal Dec. 15, strong prices and good demand marked the offering of wild and ranch mink pelts. American and local buyers were very active, notably in pastels, Silverblus and Sapphires. Interest throughout the entire catalog of some 50,000 skins was lively and females sold as well as the usually preferred larger pelts. Ranch mink was reported 82 per cent sold with a good demand. Pastels sold 86 per cent and realized very firm prices. The company also reported Silverblus 88 per cent sold, with excellent demand, while sapphires sold 78 per cent likewise with good demand. No official quotation of the initial offering of wild pelts was available at the end of the sale today. A local buyer caused

some what of a stir in the salesroom when he purchased a fine string of pastels at the highest price of the day, \$45.

Top price in ranch standards (20,454 skins) was \$32 for XDK males, and \$16.25 for females. General prices ranged as follows: XDK males \$18.50 to \$32, females \$11.75 to \$18.25; XDK and DK males \$16 to \$27.50, and females \$10.50 to \$15. XDK PT DK males \$15.75 to \$25.50. Highest price in pastels (13,145) was \$45 for males. Ranges in general were \$22.50 to \$45 and males and \$13.75 to \$23 for females. Stewart males were \$27.50 to \$35.50 and females \$20. Silverblus (1,033 skins) reached a top of \$33 for Breath of Springs males and \$29 for Stewarts. Females were \$14.50 to \$17 respectively. Top price in sapphire (2,037) was \$44 for males. General ranges were \$33 to \$44 for males, and \$18.50 to \$23.50 for females. Stewart males were \$38.50 and females \$23.50.

In Copenhagen good buying continued at Danish Fur Sales last week, with standard ranch mink advancing 20 per cent over a year ago and mutations holding firm. There was active competition between Italy and France, these countries taking the major part of the offering. United States buyers were somewhat more reserved than on the first day of the sale.

Standard ranch mink, firsts, averaged 150 kroner for males and 89 for females. Top prices were 230 and 128 kroner, respectively. Seconds averaged 131 for males and 78 for females. Pastels males averaged 249 and 138, and platinum 169 and 99. For the first time in many years, silver fox was sold here, hitting a top price of 168 kroner. The Danish krone is valued at \$14.45 cents.

We are very glad to chronicle the good news of the HBC auctions in New York and Montreal as given above. There is a feeling of optimism both in Europe and America regarding silver fox and mink farming and all the auctions have shown an upward tendency in prices with quantities offered being practically all sold. This is in accord with the reports of business and manufacturing throughout the United States, Canada and Great Britain, and France, which has been in the doldrums for some years with the tendency being to hoard gold, has become more optimistic financially since Mendes-France has become head of the government. That man is really outstanding and if he can keep his following with the reforms he is instituting he will put France back on its feet within ten years.

At this season of the year it has always been our privilege to wish the readers of this column a very Merry Christmas and we hope that one and all will enjoy the good things which abound at this season.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

The strange little creatures that live in all kinds of curious shells along the beach are not fish at all. They belong to a family called Mollusca. The next time you pay a visit to the shore pick up and examine carefully some of the shells you find. You will observe if you are observant that some are minus eyes, heads, and feet while others not only have these, but also horns tongues and teeth.

Collecting the homes of these tiny creatures is a hobby many persons carry on in their spare moments. Others make a business of collecting and selling sea shells to tourists, like the couple I met in Orlando, Florida, who do a big business selling nothing but shells.

If memory serves me right their place was called "The Orlando Shell Palace." One shell in particular claimed my attention. It was the pearly Nautilus around which poet Wendell Holmes wrote an inspiring poem. Its shell is divided into several chambers, each of which the tiny animal occupied as its home before it moved into an adjoining room.

If you ever have the good fortune to visit a city where there is a shell house be sure to go in and see the curious shell homes wrought by the children of the tide. If you do you will come away with the feeling that you have seen one of the wonders of the world.

When this column was an infant with growing pains I told you about our "Holy Dollar" and the leather money made by a shoemaker of Charlotetown. Now I am going to tell you about the sprinkle silver dollar made famous all over North America by Josiah Sprinkle who lived in a wild and rugged section of Kentucky many years ago. One day the old fellow showed up in Washington, D. C., with a pouch full of silver dollars of his own make.

One side of the coin showed the picture of an owl. On the reverse side was a six-pointed star. The edges were not ground and the coins were a bit thicker than U. S. minted dollars.

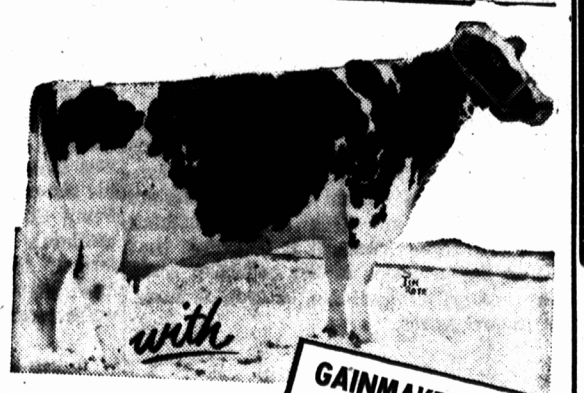
Finally, Sprinkle was towed into court, but his dollars were okay; pure silver, and worth a bit more than Uncle Sam's coins. Sprinkle was acquitted. He continued to get the silver-God only knows where—and to make the coins until his dying day.

Even in his last hours he refused to tell where he obtained his silver, or where the workshop was that turned out dollars worth more than Uncle Sam's money.

And strange but true, a veil of mystery still surrounds the strange story of Josiah Sprinkle and his hand made money.

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RECENT NATIONAL RECORD OF PERFORMANCE REPORTS FROM OTTAWA SHOW THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIVE LIST MADE ON BUNBURY FARMS. (Aug. to Nov. reports only).

Name of Cow	Times Placed	Age	Times Milked	Lbs. Milk	Lbs. Fat	Per Fat
Abegweit Cymbral	2	3	3x	14481	617	4.28
Abegweit Boniface	1	7	2x	16457	827	5.03
Abegweit Temple	1	2	3x	14486	612	4.22
Abegweit Miss Ingrid	13	6	3x	15527	749	4.82
Abegweit Signal	1	3	3x	18019	763	4.23
Abegweit Lucky Lady	1	3	2x</			