THE FLESHERTON ADVANCE

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AWAY WITH THE ACCIDENT PROMOTORS

One of our exchanges has some timely comment in a recent issue on the danger of the deep ditch alongside highways. Every week, it states deaths can be traced to this cause. Another significant consideration arises from the fact that the danger will increase with the increase in the speed at which cars travel. Cars are now driven at speeds that would have been thought highly dangerous only a few years ago. If the driver travelling at high speed should happen to lose control for an instant there is bound to be disasters so long as motorists are confronted with the ever present menace of the deep ditch only a few short feet from the roadway. —Orangeville Sun.

There is common sense in the above criticisims, and not before time, is it now indicated, that improvement has been resolved on, and that in all work on highways in the future the shoulder of the road is to be doubled in width—ten feet instead of five—and that the ditch is to be correspondingly removed back from the pavement. No doubt, the strong criticism of the press, voiced by the public demand, will result in similar improvement on every highway. Too bad that these improvements and a foot path for pedestrians were not furnished when the modern highways were laid out. Change will now be costly to the taxpayer.

TAXES:- THE PUBLIC PAY

Speaking at the South Huron nomination meeting, George Spotton, M.P., said the taxes were only as high as the municipal and town authorities made them. "Not one cent of your direct taxation is spent by the Ontario or the dominion government," declared Mr. Spotton. But the Barrie Examiner thinks it is rather surprising to hear a member of parliament making public statements which are so palpably untrue. The income tax is all expended by the dominion government; likewise the sales tax which in many cases is paid directly by the purchasers, the radio tax, certain excise taxes and several others. In the provincial field we have the gasoline tax; also highways expenditures and old age pensions, part of which are paid directly by the people through municipal tax bills. Several more might be mentioned, but the Barrie paper thinks these are sufficient to show the absurdity of Mr. Spotton's attempt to absolve federal and provincial governments from all responsibility for direct taxation. Sequel: Mr. Spotton's candidate was defeated by over 2,000 majority.

EDITORIAL ITEMS

There were fewer fatalities from road automobiles this summer than last; fewer autos used the roads.

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Flesherton village council, like other municipalities, have refused to pay the interest claim received from the Hydro Commission.

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Forty-one teachers, attending the convention at Flesherton last week, arrived in cars. Tell it not to the salary-reducing trustees! Mayhap, however, indulgent parents set up the time-saving vehicles.

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555,298 passes were given out to railway employees and their dependents in 1930. If they had not received the passes no doubt they would have been like other people and travelled by motor car.

* * *

In the Alliston district farmers are being paid at the rate of $1.10 per for potatoes bagged in 15 pound lots, which goes to show that a specially prepared article will bring a premium on the market. The potato crop in this district has been hard hit by the rot and are being brought in to consumers from outside points.

* * *

Tuesday morning we received a scare when the fire department took the chemical engine up the street past our office. However, it was on its way to receive a new charge of chemical. Don't bring on your fires just because it is ready for use.

* * *

This is fire prevention week. It is fire prevention week with us all the year round. Millions of dollars are lost by fire in Canada every year, almost all through the carelessness of individuals. We can all help the good work of prevention—all but the incendiaries.

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The Ontario Hydro Electric Commission is paying a large amount of money each year on bonds allegedly sold in the United States. All bonds issued are said to contain the information that the interest is payable in either Canada or United States funds. It seems strange that this rider would be included on the bonds sold in Canada, as it lays the Commission open to greater expenditures than would otherwise be the case. Coupons owned by subscribers of the Hydro bonds in Canada are shipping these coupons to United States points and receiving the premium on the United States funds.

This is not a square deal to public ownership in Onario, but when the people pay the financial houses seem to consider that they are entitled to their pound of flesh.

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Electors in South Huron are shown, by the full returns now ascertained, to have gone to the poles in unusually large numbers, thereby setting a good example to voters in other constituencies many of them— even in the intelligent County of Grey—being in the habit of abstaining from going to the polls on election day, for some frivolous excuse or no excuse at all. The official return of the South Huron contest shows that including 45 spoiled ballots the total vote was 12,148, compared with 14,430 names on the voters' lists, which included, of course, the usual quota of duplicates, the names of dead persons and sick people. The Conservative vote was 5,057 and that of the Liberal 7,046, or 1989 majority. Each party has its own explanation of the increased Liberal vote. It certainly cannot be said that the "stay at homes" did it.

* * *

A few days ago the King and Queen celebrated a noteworthy anniversary of a joyous event at Balmoral, their Scottish home—their betrothal. It was in September, 1892, that Queen Victoria, on her usual visit to the Highlands, announced her consent to the engagement to the Duke of York to Princess Mary of Teck. The year before, the sympathy of the whole empire went out to the young Princess, when she was bereaved of her fiance, the Duke of Clarence, shortly after he and his younger brother, Prince George, had made a visit to Canada. There was general approval of the Princess May's second choice, and it was full warranted for her marriage to the Sailor Prince has been a very happy one. The Royal pair have endeared themselves to the populace, and have reared a fine family, useful in their day and generation.

DRUNKEN DRIVER JAILED

Edward Trempe, aged about 58 years, was arrested by Prov. Officer McClevis on Saturday last on the highway between Walkerton and Hanover, and remanded to the Walkerton jail on the accusation of being drunk while in charge of a car.

It seems that Constables McClevis and Archie Ferguson were on their way down from Wiarton with two prisoners when they met a car a short piece out of Walkerton that had a flat tire and was zig-zagging badly on the road. The officers turned around with their prisoners and struck after the wobbly auto, which they overtook a half mile further on. By that time the deflated front tube had left the car and taken to the fence, where it was recovered.

After being arrested and remanded to the Walkerton jail for over Sunday, the driver of the car appeared before Magistrate Walker on Monday afternoon and pleaded not guilty to a drunken driving charge, but was convicted.

As Trempe is a returned man of Flesherton, drawing a pension and in poor health, the court gave him the minimum penalty of seven days in the Walkerton jail. It also recommended that his driver's license be temporarily, if not permanently cancelled by the Dept., as the Court felt that he shouldn't be at the wheel of a car. Crown Attorney Freeborn prosecuted in the action and Lawyer Alex. J. McNab defended the accused.—Walkerton Herald & Times

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Parliament Meets To Ratify Trade Treaties

The weather man treated Parliament shabbily. Instead of providing a golden Autumn day for the opening, he sent a steady downpour of rain which dampened the opening festivities considerably. Not nearly so many people as usual attended, due undoubtedly in part to the rain but also in part, I should think, to the unseasonable time of the opening, following closely on the heels of the great social events held during the Imperial Economic Conference.

The King's speech, or as it is more often called in Canada, the speech from the Throne, was read, as usual, by the King's personal representative, the Governor General, the Earl of Bessborough. The speech stated that Parliament was called at this time to ratify the agreements made at the Imperial Economic Conference and to consider the report on Railways and the St. Lawrence Waterway project. The revision of the Bank Act, which was expected for this session, is to be postponed until next year in view of the expected World Economic Conference being held within the year. From the point of view of the financial reformers the delay is an advantage since it gives more time to create public opinion in favor of financial reform. But on the other hand, it extends the great privileges which the banks enjoy, enabling these financial institutions to further burden the people with debt and to continue low commodity prices by their deflationary policy.

The speech stated: "The problem of unemployment continues to receive the active attention of my Ministers. Under the powers granted them at the last session of Parliament, they have been able to develop further, in co-operation with provinces and municipalities a scheme of direct relief to be put into operation during the autumn and winter months to the extent required by prevailing conditions. Plans for the re-establishment of the unemployed in various parts of the country are in preparation and will become operative as soon as, in the opinion of my Ministers, the public expenditure incident thereto will be productive of commensurate benefits."

In order to appreciate the following paragraph to the full it is necessary to understand that while the Governor General reads the speech from the Throne, he does not write it; it is written under the direction of the Prime Minister. "I rejoice that the wisdom of your steadfast policy of retrenchment and constructive development, which has ameliorated the hardships of Canadians and maintained the enviable financial position of this country, is still more fully manifest with approaching prosperity. The strength of our financial structure, the resourcefulness of agriculture and the integrity of industry has enabled us to take quick and profitable advantage of improved conditions."

On Friday the House of Commons met for an hour or more. The Prime Minister gave an explanatory speech outlining his plans for this, the first section of the third regular session of the seventeenth Parliament, which we gather will be short. The speech from the Throne is to be considered Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday the Treaties will be introduced and will, until ratified, occupy the whole attention of Parliament, after which debate on the speech from the Throne will be continued. The Redistribution Bill will be introduced and referred to a Committee and the report of the Duff Commission on Railways will be tabled, but neither will be considered further until the House re-assembles in the winter.

It is planned to make the announcement of the Treaties simultaneously throughout the Empire. Four o'clock, Eastern Standard Time is the exact time at which the Prime Minister of Canada will announce to the Commons and the country the terms of Canada's treaties with Great Britain, the Irish Free State, South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

Just before Parliament opened I was privileged, in company with three Toronto women, to attend a week-end conference on international relations at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. I was especially interested in the report of Dr. Mary Emma Woolley, the only woman member of the American Delegation to the Disarmament Conference. We were privileged to hear her first speech on the work of the Conference. It was an able, humorous utterance, we were indeed given a view of the Conference and the personalities participating in it. Dr. Woolley spoke very highly of Arthur Henderson, the Chairman. She tried to be hopeful of the result and spent some time on the resolution with which the six months of Conference concluded. While it was not all that she had hoped for, she felt some advance had been made when the delegates together said: "The time has come when all nations of the world must adopt substantial and comprehensive measures of disarmament. The Conference firmly determines to achieve a first decisive step involving a substantial reduction of armaments to be applied alike to land, naval and air armaments."

I think it is accurate to say that the large and distinguished audience who listened to Dr. Woolley felt that it was not enough to have the Disarament Conference, after six months of effort, say that they believed in disarmament; we felt that should have been the case the first day of the conference and the end of a half-year would have seen them well on with their task. Dr. Neilson, President of Smith College, voiced this feeling. "I have been much interested in Dr. Woolley's account of what happened at Geneva, I have been illuminated by her description of its atmosphere and processes, I have been somewhat cheered by her conclusions as to its result. I was willing to be cheered—I needed cheering—and I am somewhat cheered. I wish the resolution had been more definite. We have had so many disappointments from formulae and resolutions that seemed full of promise and added little progress that it has been hard to keep hopeful. I am willing to suppose that those who were on the spot and saw the difficulty of getting even that resolution through are better able to judge of its value and possible effect than we who observed it at long range, but, I do feel first of all that the pace is slower than the world can afford." This statement was greeted with a storm of applause. "The situations in Germany and Manchuria, to take only two points, are enough to show us the danger in this slowness. While Conferences in Geneva move on a little bit each time, other forces are moving much more rapidly and we are really in danger, in imminent danger, of bloodshed in Europe today."

Dr. Neilson blamed his own country, the United States, for not taking part in the World Court and the League of Nations. He used strong words in giving his opinion of the United States Senate and its foreign affairs Committee; but, he pointed out, the electorate were responsible for the committee. "They do not know what they are doing; they are stupid, they are ignorant," he claimed. "Why did we send them there? Why do we let them stay there?" The one hopeful thing was the increased thinking by the people caused by adversity. Bad times are opening men's minds. "As more and more people have less and less to lose, they are less and less afraid of ideas. This is the time to make hay while the sun is under a cloud," Dr. Neilson concluded.

—AGNES C. MACPHAIL.
House of Commons, Ottawa.
October 8th, 1932.

LARGE PINE CONE CROP BEING GATHER AT ANGUS STATION

32,000 Bushels of Pine Cones Expected —Crop at Tree Seed Station Gathered All Over Province. — Probably $3,000 Paid Out Locally for Cones.—Finest Crop in Years

A representative of The Star recently visited the tree seed plant at the village of Angus and was very much impressed with the activities being carried on at this rather novel industry. As there are possibly very few people familiar with the industry of procuring and caring for tree seed, we will endeavor to give our readers a brief outline of the business.

The tree seed station at Angus is situated alongside the C.N.R. line just east of the station. Altogether the buildings and grounds cover about five acres and directly opposite is the very fine community park which has already become quite popular as a centre for sports and picnics, etc. The Tree Seed Station is a Provincial Government industry and has been in operation at Angus for nine years, and previously in a small way at Camp Borden. As might be expected the grounds are beautifully kept. Flowers in artistically arranged beds are everywhere. Among them are about half an acre of Dahlias of leading varieties which alone are worth a special visit to see. A flowing well supplies water for some well arranged pools in which the water plants, good fish, etc., are kept. The two dwellings used by the officials and the half dozen buildings used for the industry are all tastily surrounded with flower beds, vegetable gardens, and other appointments to make the setting as picturesque as one could wish.

On our arrival we found the Superintendent, Mr. H. R. Willoughby (who by the way is an old Mulmur boy) in the office. Very courteously he volunteered to show us around. We found in him a most entertaining host. We went through the storage buildings, some of which are three stories high. Here we saw over twenty thousand bushels of pine cones. These cones are purchased from the pickers who were paid $1.50 per bushel for them until Sept. 25th, when the price is dropped to $1.00 owing to the big crop available.

The cones are spread over the floors and on racks to a depth of about 15 inches. These must be turned daily to prevent heating. The threshing process is carried on in the main building in which is the office, underground vaults, etc. The seed of red pine is about the size of a kernel of wheat. Only a few seeds are in each cone, and extraction is done by heating the cones to 140 degrees in large drums which are occasionally revolved. When the cone is dried and heated it opens up, allowing the seed to escape. The drums are revolved several times, the seed falling into hoppers from which it is bagged and afterwards cleaned and then stored in glass jars holding about twenty-five pounds each. A bushel of cones yields from one-half to three-quarters of a pound of seed. At present the seed has a commercial value of $8 to $10 per pound. A few years ago it sold at $21 a pound. The seed storage room is a vault eleven feet under the ground. The vault is kept at a regular temperature of 55 degrees and is both fire and moisture proof. There is row after row of jars of seed. Red and white pine, white spruce, red and white cedar etc. Each jar is valued at $200 to $300, so a visitor can almost imagine he is in the Canadian mint at Ottawa. We were told that a recent shipment had been made, amounting to $13,000.

Many Details Kept

As might be expected a complete recording system is kept. Every jar is tested for germination and labelled. This test is made in the hothouse where 100 seeds from each container is placed on moist paper with a glass tumbler over them. The percentage is then a guaranteed germination test.

Where Seed is Sold

The seed is sold to nurseries all over. Some are Government nurseries such as the plant at Midhurst while again others may be private. The seed, of course is sold subject to this guarantee. This seed is sown just like onion seed in frames and afterwards transplanted. When the little plants or trees become six or eight inches high they are distributed (free) to who-so-ever will plant and care for them.

Gathering Pine Cones

The gathering of cones some years is quite profitable. This year there is a bumper crop. The work of course is dangerous as it is necessary to climb the trees. For this reason it is best to locate trees in a clearing which tend to branch well and not run to height. To gather cones or tree seed of any kind it is necessary to get a permit and instructions from the Department of Forestry at Toronto. Payment is in cash when delivered at the plant at Angus. The cone gathering season is in this section from August 25th to Sept. 20th. This may vary. At all events the cones must not be too green nor yet be ripe enough to have already opened and the seed lost. Any person contemplating gathering should first of all get circulars which contain all instructions. The cones are sold by the measured bushel. Besides the pine cones there is a demand for Balsam seed, Hemlock, Tamarac, Spruce, White Ash, Sugar Maple, Red Oak, Butter Nut, Hickory and Walnut.

Employment Given

Besides the vast number of men and boys who are making good wages gathering cones the plant an Angus gives employment to about twenty men. Owing to the very large crop this year the Angus station expects to receive 32,000 bushels of cones. The handling of this amount, threshing, testing, etc., will take nearly a year, or until next season's crop (if any) starts to come in. Of the 32,000 bushels that will be handled this season some 3,000 bushels were purchased locally, amounting to over $4,000 in value.

The reforestration of waste land is as yet only in its infancy. Much can be learned by any one interested by visiting either a nursery or a seed extraction plant such as the one at Angus. Mr. A. H. Richardson, chief forester for Ontario, has a summer home at Angus and either he or the superintendent, Mr. Willoughby, will be found to be only too willing to give interesting facts and information.—Creemore Star.

WILD CANARY TAKING LESSONS

An interesting sidelight upon nature in relation to bird life, is being provided at the home of Mrs. Ray, 22 Pegley Street, Chatham. Mrs. Ray is the possessor of a canary which is one of the sweetest singers in this part of the country. In the summer she takes the precaution to leave the cage out-of-doors, and this concession is especially appreciated by this valuable pet, who shows his enthusiasm by increasing his song. Recently however, he has been joined by a visitor. A wild canary attracted by his song, has taken to paying the imprisoned singer a visit daily, and he regularly takes up a friendly position on top of the cage and joins in the song.

When both birds are giving their daily duet the attractiveness of the music is increased. The tame bird is by far the better singer, but his lessons are being followed attentively by his wild and free companion. — St. Marys Journal-Agus.

Dundalk town council joins the protesting municipalities who refuse to pay the Hydro exchange on monies borrowed in the Unitel States. In short, they declare that all such imposts should be met out of the Ontario Hydro eleven million dollar reserve.

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