THE FLESHERTON ADVANCE

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W. H. THURSTON, - - Editor
F. J. THURSTON, - Assoc. Editor

HYDRO SALARIES

Premier Henry has refused to allow the salaries of hydro heads to be made public. For this attitude he has received a barrage of criticism which appears to the ordinary observer to be quite justifiable. Hydro it is claimed, is a public utility owned by the people and operated "at cost." In the early days of hydro this "at cost" phrase was worked to the limit, but recently we have not heard so much about it. The public still believe, however, that they have a strong interest in the welfare of hydro and wish to see the great undertaking operated on an economical basis. If this were done the public would be quite satisfied to take for granted the "at cost" slogan as being a statement of fact. But without economy, "at cost" becomes meaningless and only a juggler's attempt to draw the attention away from the actual facts. Just now the public insists on getting at the actual facts, but Mr. Henry appears to be bent upon hiding something and a query has gone forth as to what it might be. It is claimed that the information sought might not be in the public interest. It is difficult to believe that an employer should not know what salaries his workmen receive and no one believes that hydro is in any other category than that of a public servant. It is hinted that within the past two years salaries of some heads have been materially increased: it is also said that salaries are abnormally high ranging from five to twenty thousand dollars a year. The public has a right to know whether or not these things are true.

Sir Adam Beck fought bitterly against hydro becoming a political catspaw. but since his death the struggle has ended and politics appear to have absorbed hydro body and bones.

"MEMORIES"

We can't save newspapers.
We save memories.

Week after week, and year after year, the Advance presents a running picture of the life of Flesherton to the community, and to those who live in distant places.

In time the record becomes surcharged with all the warmth and affection of a cherished thing that has long since departed—and it lives in memory as a sacred thing.

But we, as Fleshertonians, can't save newspapers. They are not made for saving. And so, a booklet is to be prepared to preserve some of the finest of things that we have given our readers in recent years.

A series of Recollections of Home, dealing with the period ranging around 1895 to 1920, was given in The Advance several years ago by A. S. Thurston. They are to be presented in book form, accompanied by a series of family and biographical sketches, which will serve to give in brief form the story of changes the years have brought to our families.

The project has been endorsed by the Flesherton Old Boys Association, and we venture to hope that the response will be such as to justify our faith in the enterprise.

The first sketches will appear next week.

EDITORIAL ITEMS

Sunday was dull and rainy; not a fit day for the gentler sex to parade their new spring attire.

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If the exchange rate remains at its present low rate very few Canadians will attend the World's Fair which commences in June. Par for the dollar would allow many more from Canada to attend.

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With spring at hand hope is springing up for splendid crops and higher prices for produce in the fall. The market is gradually seeking higher levels and at the same time many prices will fall only to rise higher than before. Better times are just ahead!

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Canada's ocean port of Halifax is coming into its own again and the grain trade is improving. This is strikingly illustrated by the fact that more grain has been shipped from that port so far this year, than went through during the entire year of 1932.

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The need of paving on Highway No. 10 is distinctly seen by the present condition of the highway south of Flesherton. Heavy trucking is the main cause of the road breaking up as it has and the only remedy is for pavement to be laid. This year there are more trucks on the road than ever and even though they carry only half a load they cut the road up quickly.

We Saw The Game

Last Wednesday we tried in every way to secure tickets for the Ranger-Maple Leaf final hockey game, but were not successful, even after an appeal to the Maple Leaf Garden officials had been made. We fully expected to stand in line and secure admission in a standing section, but we were fortunate in having our old friend. J. T. Clark, editor of the Toronto Star, generously intercede on our behalf and the precious tickets were secured from Foster Hewitt. Both these gentlemen are heartily thanked. It was a delight to watch these two teams battle for sixty-eight minutes without a score, only to have the Rangers count when the Leafs were short two players, thereby winning the Stanley Cup. Our pleasure was saddened with regret that the Leafs could not repeat their performance of last year, but the team was riddled with injuries and the players were not superhuman by any means. They played the game as real sportsmen and while they failed to annex the Stanley Cup they are still considered world's champions by their supporters, due to their courageous stand under adversity.

W.C.T.U. Officers

At the recent meeting of the W. C. T. U., held at the home of Mrs. H. Down, the following officers were elected:

President — Mrs. D. Williams
Vice-Pres. — Mrs. Wm. Inkster
Rec.-Sec. — Mrs. T. Bentham
Cor. Sec. & Treas. — Miss V. A. Nicholson
Temperance Sec. — Miss Mary McMillan.

Address of President At O.E.A. Convention

The Ontario Educational Association is in session in Toronto this week and quite a number from this district are attending. Mr. Herbert Corbett of Proton Station is President of the Trustees' and Ratepayers' section and the following address was presented by him on Tuesday:

It gives me much pleasure to welcome the trustees and ratepayers of Ontario to our 45th annual convention. From a small beginning we have advanced to a point where our usefulness and influence is without doubt a very influential factor in the educational administration of Ontario.

We strive to be a constructive organization with one object in mind, namely, the building up of a strong and healthy Canadian citizenship through the youth of our land. The two main avenues through which we work is, first, by bringing together trustees and ratepayers to discuss edrcational matters pertaining to the administration and the Course of Study in our schools, and second, through The Canadian School Journal, a purely Canadian magazine for which we endeavor to secure articles from leading educationists outlining in a practical way the best thought relative to our schools. Questions are answered in this magazine which should prove of value to all trustees is the administration of our schools.

We appreciate the co-operation of the Department of Education and the assistance of the School Inspectors in their attendance and assistance at all our county educational meetings. I am informed by the Secretary that no meeting was held last year where there was not at least one Inspector present, prepared to answer any question regarding the educational system or to give any information required by the trustees and ratepayers.

I wish also to extend to the teachers of the Province our appreciation of the good work they are doing, and trust that the closest co-operation will exist in our two great organizations in order that youth may receive the greatest assistance possible in building up a strong body, a sound mind and good morals.

In these times of depression, both in the urban and rural districts, we must economize, but not at the expense of the child. Let us first cut down on luxuries, and if necessary, on some of the necessities of life before we economize too much on our schools. We have burdened ourselves with heavy debentures when a pay-as-you-go system would have been more sensible. We have this legacy. What can we do to remedy this in the future? I would suggest that the Department of Education create a fund into which each school could pay a small percentage each year of its school section levy to be used for capital expenditure. Provision for such a fund would necessarily have to be worked out whereby schools would not receive more from this fund than the amount paid in with interest. In this way surpluses could be built up by every school section without very much hardship and held under Government protection ready for any emergency which might arise.

Another wasteful part of our educational system is found in the two years following the Entrance Examination, where pupils in rural districts leave home and attend high school in towns and cities, and pupils in the towns and cities attend high school where the cost of maintenance is high, largely on account of the high salaries for highly certificated teachers, instead of entering a junior high school where experienced first or even second class teachers are qualified to give the required instruction. The Lower School Course is in reality Public School work, provided for in the Public School Course of Study, and being carried on quite successfully in many one-roomed public schools. It is estimated that 82% of the pupils in the Fifth Classes in rural schools are successful in their examinations. Why could this work not be conducted in all schools throughout Ontario? New schools should not be required but provision made for part of the High Schools to be given over to junior work taught by experienced teachers holding permanent first class certificates

I might suggest another wastage which exists in our educational system, namely, the mistaken idea that the aim of our secondary education should be the University when only about 12% of our pupils go on to higher educational institutions. This system not only causes many repeaters but a lack of interest in school work, as many of the subjects do not promote interest in life. Business practices, economies, and our relation to fellow men in society is of great importance at the present time, yet our school system does not touch on these subjects in any practical way. The teaching of these subjects might cost a little more but it would be economy from the standpoint both of interest to the student and building up an intelligent citizenship.

These subjects together with many others should be discussed at our educational meetings. Opinions expressed, suggestions formulated in the form of resolutions, and passed on to the Department of Education to work out in a practical way which should result in a system of education which would lead out the latent energies of the youth of Ontario instead of cramming in a few pre-historic ideas soon forgotten and which finally decay.

A great responsibility rests upon the trustees of Ontario. The administration of our schools and the future of Ontario lies in our hands. Not only the administration of our schools is entrusted to us but we have considerable control of what shall be taught. The Department of Education outlines the courses and emphasizes high standards in teachers and equipment but permits boards to introduce music, manual training, household science, commercial work, fifth classes, agriculture, mining, night classes, medical supervision, etc. The University demands Latin, Greek, Algebra, Geometry, and such subjects. So we come back to answer the question, will we continue to educate for Life or the University?

The School Attendance Act states that every child between eight and sixteen years of age shall attend school for the full term during which the school of the section or municipality in which he resides is open each year unless excused for certain reasons. But it does not say that he must make good use of his time while at school. In many cases Latin, Geometry, Algebra, etc. do not appeal to the student. The Matriculation or Teacher's Course is the only one provided for him. Naturally it results in lack of interest and lack of application, consequently wasted time and increased costs. The main argument is that we must keep the boy off the street. If this is true he should have some productive and helpful instruction or vocational teaching. Repeating courses and uninteresting instruction cannot help but have a bad moral effect on any human being. Is it not possible to provide courses more attractive and more useful to our adolescent boys and girls? We think it is. Much depends upon the teacher. We have instances of as many as three vocational subjects being taught with good results in one-roomed country schools. With all the facilities of larger Continuation and High School, and the more advanced teachers, surely something could be done to open the way to vocational teaching.

Much depends on our teacher training schools, where teachers could be instructed in leadership along those lines so that when they go out into the various schools in the Province they may be qualified for this type of instruction and can suggest to the trustees what may be accomplished through a course of instruction practical in its teaching and of assistance in life.

A good working knowledge of the country in which we live, its forms of government, the duties of citizens, the relations between industries and nations should be taught in a preliminary way. How can we expect our teachers to teach Canadian History beyond the Entrance Class, or our great majority of pupils to be instructed when Canadian History is not taught in the High School Course until after 50 per cent. drop out, as Canadian History is a third year high school subject? Too much of our high school course is a repetition of the public school course in other subjects besides History. Would it not be advisable to emphasize the more common phases of these subjects in the public school and leave more advanced and definite new courses for our high schools?

May I conclude by giving a few extracts from the Act and Regulations?

"It shall be the duty of the high school board to provide instruction in the obligatory subjects of study and in such of the optional subjects as they may select on recommendation of the Principal."

The following subjects are the only compulsory subjects in the high school course—physical culture in all years, English Literature and Composition for the first four years, and British History, Physiography, Algebra and Geometry for one year each in the first two years.

Manual Training, Household Science and Agriculture may be taken in any school where provision has been made satisfactory to the Minister. Yet, according to the Minister's report of 1931, only four high schools in Ontario out of 143 took Manual Training and Household Science, and only 45 took agriculture.

In conclusion allow me to thank the Trustees and Ratepayers of the Province for the honor bestowed on me in choosing me as your President of the Association a year ago, and may I bespeak for my successor to office the kindness and courtesy shown to me.

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DANCING

Will be held in the
Fraternity Hall FLESHERTON
- ON -
Wed., April 19
under the auspices of the Eastern Star

Round and Square Dancing. Dorothy Foster and Other Music. To Commence at 8.30 p.m.
Lunch served. - Admission: 25c.

Letter to The Editor

Taxes And The Depression

To the Editor of The Advance:

All the wealth of the world is derived from the land and the waters. Therefore, the people that work the land, and produce the products of the land for a living, are the ones that are burdened with the lion's share of the taxes.

The taxes in Osprey and Artemesia average for the last 15 years, for a good 100 acre farm, with fair buildings, around $100.00 each year. Now go back about 30 years ago and compare the taxes, and the price of products of the farm; also goods and machinery the farmer has to buy. The goods and machinery average 40 per cent more now than then; taxes then were around $30.00 for a good 100 acre farm. People then got just as much value for their $30.00 as they get now for $100.00 of taxes. Who is getting the benefit of this other $70.00? British laws call for value in any deal. That is, if I sell my neighbor stock or goods, I have to give him value for his money. Farmers' taxes have raised 300 per cent, wool has dropped 500 per cent, hides have dropped 200 per cent, wheat 100 per cent, other farm products are much the same as they were 30 years ago. When we take a look around the country, what differences do we see now, than we did then? Today they are seizing for taxes, in nearly every township in the province of Ontario farms are going back to the crown. 25 per cent. of the timber land should have been left standing for building purposes and fuel and the maple syrup industry. It would also be a great benefit for windbreak and climate conditions. What is needed is a good statesman for leader, who will give the people more of a fair-play deal. As it is now, 50 per cent. of the people are getting 90 per cent. of the money to live on; the other 50 per cent. have the remaining 10 per cent. Why not at least make it more fair, for the 50 per cent. of small salaried people and give them 30 per cent of the dough; the high salaried don't need so much to live on; the other half are not getting enough to make both ends meet.

It is up to our two governments and others that have the power, municipal councils and trustees. The latter two can do a great deal to bring the taxes to their right level. The two governments are not trying to do any thing for the farmers, or the low salaried people. No good statesman, would have an unfair law like the old age pension, or such taxes as 2 cents a pound on sugar and 9c taxes on a 25c box of matches, and numerous other articles the poorer people must have as well as the rich.

A hires B for $400.00 a year. The Government offers to pay B $150.00 more if A will give $150.00 more. Would A do it? I think he would not. Still I think it is being done by a good many in this province.

—RATEPAYER

Seed Grain Scarce

Reports to the Department indicate that seed grain is becoming scarce. The small remaining supply in farmers' hands is confined to Eastern Ontario and the New Liskeard district. The farmer who looks for seed only when he is ready to sow, will be a loser this year.

Savings On Papers

Open to any subscriber of The Advance

We announce the following clubbing arrangements for subscribers of The Advance to receive their home payer and any others they may desire, for a period of year, to Canadian points only:

The Advance and the Toronto Daily Star	$7.25
The Advance and Toronto Daily Globe	6.25
The Advance and Toronto Mail and Empire	$6.25
The Advance and Family Herald & Weekly Star	$2.40
The Advance and the Farmers' Sun	$3.25
The Advance and the Canadian Farm	$2.50
The Advance and The Canadian Countryman	$2.50
The Advance and the Farmers' Advocate	$2.50

If the paper you want is not in the above list, we can probably get it for you and save you money.

These prices are strictly cash in advance.

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