THE
FLESHERTON ADVANCE

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F. J. THURSTON, Editor.

The Freedom of The Press

Great men of history who have left us the legacy of democratic government all seem to have been of one mind, that the preservati-n of the freedom of the press, because this freedom has essentially, through the centuries shown itself to be the one great force which has seen to it that the freedom of the individual has been preserved. When freedom of the press is abolished, other freedoms go with it. There is little need at this time to stress that point. There are so many poignant and tragic examples in the world today of a subservient press, that it must be obvious to any intelligent person is synonoumous with the freedom which is democracy.

There have always been those, who, often for reasons of personal aggrandisement or lust for power, would rob the press of this precious jewel in the crown of liberty. There have been others who cry out for personal freedom of expression, but who would deny this right to the press. It has been claimed that this freedom can become license, but this is one of those half-truths which unthinking people are likely to accept at its face value.

Actually the press enjoys a freedo which gives it no privilege above the individual. It must conform to the laws of the state. Its freedom is bound by the lows of libel and slander. It certainly offers no greater opportunity for defaming any person of institntion, than does the inherent right of free speech with which every person is endowed as a birthright. Abraham Lincoln in a debate on the constitution once said: "The liberty of the press is the tyrant's scourage; it is the true friend and the supermost suporter of civil liberty." The principal of freedom of the press, as it exists today, is the result of a long and bitter struggle between those who believe in civil rights and constituted authority, and those who feared the exercise of these rights.

It is significant that the first amendment to the Bill of Rights of the Amercan Constitution, adopted in 1791, is one that relates to the freedom of the press. It reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or the prohibition of the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." The very wording of this amendment places freedom of the press on the same level, and of equal import with freedom of religion, of speech and of assembly.

A Rhode Island State provision sums up the question of a free press in a few words when it says:"The liberty of the press being essential to the security and freedom of the state, any person may publish his sentiment on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty, and in all trials for libel, both civil and criminal, the truth unless published from malicious motives, shall be sufficient defence to the person charged." Many other democratic countries have passed similar legislation, because from a wide study of the dangers of a subservient press, they have learned that free press is the best assurance of a free country.

To be fully comprehended, the freedom of the press must be accepted by democratic peoples as a typical example of the privileges they enjoy as individuals in a democratic state. To abolish th freedom of the press, is to invite the abolition of all freedom for the individual.

NOT SO MUCH DICTATION

Since its formation in 1930. the Ontario Securities Commission has done a good deal for mining and industrial affairs through the control of speculation. But in the past, its restrictions have had dictatorial force, in that no order of the Commission was subject to review in any way in the courts. This session an amendment to the Securities Act granting right of appeal from decisions of the Commission was introduced in the Legislature by Attorney General Conant. It is proposed that a Board of Review, consisting of the Master of the Supreme Court, the judge of the Mining Court and the Deputy Minister of Mines, be set up, to which any "direction, decision, order or ruling regarding a license or affecting the right of any person to trade in securities" may be appealed and that final resort may be made by the appellant to the Court of Appeal for Ontario. On the principle that citizen should be permitted to have his rights determined by the courts, whenever it is at all possible and whenever it does not too drastically delay or impair administration, curtailment of the absolute power of the Board should meet general approval.

HIGH HYDRO REVENUE

Increased deliveries of power for war industries is credited for the record high reached by the revenue and power sales of the Hudro Electric Commission during the fiscal year ending October 31, 1940. Revenues from all systms totalled $37,399,-536.90.

In this connection it is interesting to note the possibility of an entire reversal of the basic "power at cost" principle of the Hydro-Electric System, as a result of a request for the appointment of a select committee of the Ontario Legislature to study the question of establishing a flat rate for Hydro power across the province. Under the present system, rates are governed by the distance of a municipality from the source of generation and the density of the area served. The establishment of a universal rate would undoutedly entail an increase of power costs in urban areas, particularly in the major citiees. On the other hand the reduction of rural rates thus affected would in all probability increase the number of power users on farms and go far towards encouraging industries to locate in the smaller centres, causing a decentrailization of industry which in the long run might prove beneficial to the Province. The fact that the St. Lawrence project gives promise of vast reserves of power makes a policy change more feasible.

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CEYLON

FUNERAL OF MR. J. McFADYEN

Rev. Dr. Campbell of Priceville, Presbyterian Church had charge of the funeral service of the late Mr. John McFadyen Thursday afternoon. He gave a very comforting message to the bereaved. The pallbearers were Messrs. G. Arrowsmith, Jos. Staubles, A. and P. Muir, M. Hogarth and J. F. Collinson. Interment was made in the McNeill Cemetery, Priceville. Mrs. Jones, Mr. Chas. Kyle and Mr. and Mrs. John Kyle of Maple were in attendance at the funeral.

Miss Agnes McPhail has accepted a position as columnist with the Globe and Mail. Her articles on farming will appear three times a week in that paper.

Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Smillie have the sympathy of a host of friends in the loss of the latter's brother, Mr. A. Burnett, Priceville.

Mrs. Percy Hunt was in Berkeley on Thursday.

Miss Agnes Macphail, Mrs. Hogarth, Mrs. Hunt, Miss Lottie Whittaker and Mr. John McWilliam were in Toronto on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Coleman and Mary Caroline, London, spent the week end with the former's mother, Mrs. H. Coleman and Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Collinson and family.

Miss Catherine Stewart, who has completed her training at the G. and M. Hospital, Owen Sound was a visitor at her home here last week.

Mr. Jas. Turner, Laurel, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Oliver.

The monthly meeting of the Women's Institute took the form of a quilting at the home of Mrs. J. R Sinclair, when 16 members and visitors were present. The meeting opened with the singing of O Canada followed by a reading by Mrs. Smillie. The roll call was answered by giving suggestions for making money. $10 was voted to the Flesherton-Artemesia Red Cross Society; 70c was added to the fuds for the tea, donated by Mrs. McMillan. Mrs. Sinclair held the lucky ticket on the tea. Miss Swanton's contest was won by Mrs. Collinson. The quilt was finished that evening and will go to the Evacuated Children's Fund.

Mr. John Nichol was in Toronto last week.

Mrs. Patsy Overton, Toronto, was a visitor last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Oliver.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Doupe of Owen Sound spent the first of the week with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Duckett. Little Miss Joan returned with them after spending three weeks with her grandparents.

KILLED ANYONE THIS YEAR?
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For the convenience of patrons desiring to spend longest possible Easter Week-End visit with out-of-town friends and be back home at a reasonable hour Sunday night, Special Train will operate Sun., April 13, as follows, making all stops:
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