

The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1919

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H. P. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.

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Headquarters 114

EDITORIAL

Clean Up and Paint Up

Spring is at the door. It has always been regarded as the special period of the year for house-cleaning, home improvement and the customary refurbishing time generally. During recent years the popular slogan, "Clean up and Paint up" has been current. As a beautifying and conservation measure this would be difficult to improve on. Wood, which comprises so large a part of all residences and their environments, when exposed to the weather without the protection of frequent painting, soon deteriorates. A shabby and neglected appearance follows. Nothing adds more to the appearance of a building than a coat of paint; nothing will do more to protect the wood work and prolong its life. Our soldiers are coming home. They are coming from a country of homes, where thrift is prominent, where the people take a pride in their premises and keep them in attractive condition. Let us all bear this in mind, if for no other reason, and clean up and paint up and give them a cheery homelike welcome.

A Worthy Educational Scheme

Through the co-operation of the Department of Education there is being sent to every school in the Province information in which the Ontario Council of the League of the Empire offers its services in linking up in correspondence schemes, schools and pupils throughout Canada and other parts of the British Empire. Dr. Cody, Minister of Education, commends the plans of the League and encourages the teachers of Ontario to use the opportunity offered of doing a real imperial and educational service. At this juncture, when Canada's relationships are under process of re-adjustment within the Empire, and the League of Nations, we feel that the development of the League's School-linking and Comrade-Correspondence schemes will undoubtedly help to create the most desirable feelings of intelligent good will amongst the boys and girls who in a very few years will be assuming the responsibilities of citizenship. The Editor of the Free Press heartily endorses the scheme and recommends that the Board of Education and parents in general encourage the teachers and pupils to make use of the opportunity offered. We see many advantages in having our schools exchanging letters, pictures and natural objects with other schools in Australia, Great Britain, India and South Africa, as well as our nearer neighbors in Quebec, Nova Scotia or British Columbia.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Even the Penny Banks show the remarkable financial resourcefulness of this country. In Toronto a year ago the deposits were \$21,507,72, the savings of the school children, mainly; this month the amount on deposit is \$28,381.05. This in view of the constant "drives" for various patriotic and other worthy purposes, thrift stamps, etc., to all of which the children do their share in contributing, shows conclusively that money is plentiful in the country.

A characteristic and very illuminating statement was made by Marshall Foch, when asked by the editor of one of the leading journals of Paris, on the anniversary of the big German drive, last Friday, how he had turned the offensive into a great German defeat. He said: "You ask me to tell you much in a few words. Victories are won by science, that is true, but also by faith. When one has faith, one does not retire; one stops the enemy where one finds him. You tell me that I gave victory to France. It was our admirable soldiers who gave it. I have but one merit, that of never despairing. We signed the armistice to avoid killing one more man and because it gave us everything necessary to a French victory."

In an address in Toronto last week Hon. Finlay McDevine declared there would be few unemployed men in Ontario in a very short time. Dealing with political questions he said: "You have heard that efforts were to be made to bring about a fusion of the labor and agricultural classes, but it was a most remarkable thing that the United Farmer members in the Legislature were most anxious to have cheap labor on the farms. If the United Farmers were to become a serious factor in politics they would have to place their candidates in the field against Liberals and Conservatives alike, and not do as at present, oppose Conservatives only."

The Budget Debate in the Local House was concluded last Thursday evening after the presentation of an amendment by the Opposition protesting against the character of the financial statement of the Government. The Liberals objected to the huge maintenance charges on the Government House, and specifically mentioned this matter in their amendment. Over \$24,000 was paid out for repairs and maintenance during the last financial year. The building, site and furnishings cost almost \$1,099,000. If the cost for maintenance is going to continue yearly at around \$24,000 the Liberals consider that their protest is timely and well taken. Other matters which the Liberals disapproved of in their amendment were the concealment of receipts under the heading of "Casual Revenue" as illustrated by the entries made in respect of revenue received from the sale of tractors, seed wheat, etc., which should have come under the receipts of the Department of Agriculture. They also protested against the treatment of receipts from the disposal of capital assets, such as timber, as current receipts, while at the same time treating the payments as on capital account, it being apparent that these expenditures should be paid out of current revenue.

A bill has been introduced to prevent Governments from delaying bye-elections. It would compel the issue of new writs within sixty days after a seat has been declared vacant. In England the period fixed is three weeks. The law should be amended. No Government should have the power to delay a bye-election for an unreasonable time.—Star.

It is reported that the Ontario Government is considering the problem of revising the voters' lists in readiness for the referendum on the liquor question to be taken this fall. It is believed that the enumerator system will be used in the preparation of the lists, and that the work will take from a month to six weeks. By that time a legal interpretation of the clauses relative to woman franchise will likely be forthcoming.

The death of Hon. W. J. Hanna last week elicited expressions of profound regret from both the leaders of the Government and the Opposition. The Hon. adjourned over Friday until Monday out of respect to the decease of the late Minister. His very useful public career, especially in the matter of the reformation of our prison system and putting the treatment of prisoners on a sane and humanitarian basis, will always be gratefully remembered by the people of Ontario.

Mr. Sam Carter, M.P.P., of Guelph, is inquiring in the Legislature, as to the number of separate prescriptions issued by physicians under the Ontario Temperance Act legislation during the past year. It is evident to the general public that there are a few licensed practitioners here and there throughout the Province who are willing to prostitute their profession and violate the spirit of the Act for the financial gain available. It is to be hoped Mr. Carter's enquiry will result in legislation which will make this method of profiting illegal.

It has been announced that the Dominion Government intends to expend \$20,000,000 in the construction of leading highways through Canada, during the next five years. The money is to be distributed among the provinces in proportion to population. This action will mean much to our country. All visitors to Great Britain and Europe remark upon the excellence of the leading highways in these older countries. The United States also is accomplishing much in the construction of leading highways in all directions through that country.

Major Tolmie, M.P.P., of Windsor, congratulated the Government on adopting the Liberal party's policy in regard to prohibition and woman suffrage in the Provincial Parliament one day last week. He also showed his interest in education and hoped that now the Government had secured a Minister from outside of the House, the Department of Education would receive the attention it deserves. Major Tolmie strongly advocated the establishment of a Ministry of Labor. He said: "You will agree with me that every man is entitled to life, to a little leisure, a little treasure, and a little pleasure in life, and it is up to us to see that the laboring man gets justice."

The Guelph Horticultural Society deserves credit for its live and practical interest in the young people of the city. The third annual bird house competition will be held in the city hall on April 1. It provides for houses, nesting boxes, shelters, bird baths, feeding shelves and note books of bird observation. Twenty-four cash prizes aggregating \$40 are offered in this very healthy rivalry. The enterprise tends to engender in the children of the community a love for bird life, an intelligent interest in their habits, usefulness and protection. Action Horticultural Society took up this worthy matter last year and provided for a limited competition, but for some reason the scheme failed to materialize. It is hoped this year it will be undertaken and carried to a successful termination.

The annual report of Public School Inspector Denyes for the Halton-Wentworth Inspectorate, just issued, has much of interest to all who are interested in the cause of education. The statistical summary reveals some facts hardly anticipated. It shows that the cost per pupil in this inspectorate, based upon average attendance is much greater in the rural than in the town schools. In Nassagaweya the cost is \$43.88 per pupil; Esqueping \$55.55; Trafalgar \$55.78; Nelson \$59.76. In the town schools the cost is as follows: Acton, \$25.11; Milton \$31.28; Burlington \$32.08; Oakville \$33.65 and Georgetown \$37.68. It will be satisfaction to our citizens to learn that our Board of Education is maintaining the excellent educational status which Acton school enjoys at the lowest cost to the ratepayers of any school in the county.

The Housing Bill has now passed through all three stages and received royal assent. It now makes available something like \$10,000,000 of the province loans \$2,000,000 and the Federal Government about \$8,000,000 for the building of houses costing not more than \$3,500 each, including land. Major Tolmie, who has been at the front, proposed a Government grant of \$200 to a returned soldier, or the widow or widowed mother of a returned soldier, to enable either of them to purchase a lot and to be able to avail themselves of a clause which authorizes the advance of the full cost of the house to such a party. The Government rejected the motion out of order and did not adopt it, and in consequence the soldier will have to find the price of his lot before he can take advantage of the Government housing scheme.

The manifest value of the Representative of Agriculture for Halton to the rural schools is emphasized by Mr. J. M. Denyes, Inspector, in his annual report. He says: "I am indebted to the Representative for his reports of the excellent School Fairs of the year. Four fairs were held, at Nelson, Brookville, Trafalgar and Ashgrove. The quality of exhibits this year was better than in past years. This was especially noticeable in the grain and root exhibits. The cooking and sewing classes were exceptionally well filled and the quality was excellent. The total number of plots represented at the four fairs was 749 and the entries totalled 1,430. The aggregate attendance was 1,550 school pupils and 2,000 adults." It is very evident that the School Fair is not losing in interest either for the children or the general public. It is, in fact, growing in interest, in helpful suggestion, and in healthy competition.

DANGEROUS TO US TO HELP THE WORLD?

The question of supreme importance before the world today is the league of nations. Concerning it President Wilson says: "No party has the right to appropriate this issue, and no party will in the long run dare oppose it. I am untroubled—not alarmed, but amazed—that there should be in some quarters such a comprehensive ignorance of the state of the world. I do not know where those men have been closeted. I do not know by what influence they have been blinded, but I do know that they have been separated from the general currents of the thought of mankind. I cannot imagine how these men can live and not live in the atmosphere of the world. I cannot imagine how they can live and not be in contact with the events of the times. And I particularly cannot see how they can be Americans and set up a doctrine of careful selfishness, thought out to the last detail. I have heard no counsel or carefully in their criticisms. I have heard no constructive suggestions. I have heard only one word: 'Will it not be dangerous to us to help the world?' It would be fatal to us not to help it."—Nashville Advocate.

HOW IT WAS DONE

Uncle was visiting the family, and the children had promised faithfully to help him to do the work. He said: "I do not want to ask him to take them to the 'movie'." "The second day of his visit, however, was his birthday. The children pooled their pennies on this day and presented to Uncle one ticket to the 'movie'."

LIQUID GUM POLISH USED AS AN AUTO RADIATOR PAINT

Because of the difficulty of getting into the spaces in an automobile radiator to clean or paint them, this part of a car is often neglected, says a Washington writer. The appearance can be improved by painting the webbing with black liquid gum polish, diluted to the proper consistency. A convenient method of applying the paint is to use the dabber which usually is attached to the cork of the bottle.

WORK IS EDUCATION

Education is given not only by the schools, but also by our daily work when school days are over. Any kind of work into which we put earnestness and intelligence is educative. But although work in the office or the factory gives as poor results as a school work in the school room.

WHAT HE SHAVED WITH

The commandant of a prison was inspecting a company of his depot. Coming to one man whose face was rather unkempt, he remarked: "Have you shaved this morning?" "Yes, sir," was the prompt response. "The way you looked shabby and after consulting with the other officers, I questioned the accused with: 'What did you use, a penknife?' 'No, sir,' came the answer. 'I lost my penknife and tried an army razor.'"

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DANGER OF CELLAR STAIRS

It is suggested that white paint be applied at the bottom land next to the top step of the cellar stairway to prevent falling caused by darkness. Even in the faintest light the white markings are visible, making the points at which falls occur much less likely.

When you see a man trying to hold up a lamp post it shows that he sympathizes with anything that is light. The only reason why some men hurry is because the woman wants a home and the man wants a servant. Some folks live and learn, while others devote their time to talking about things of which they know absolutely nothing.

One year's experience of prohibition in Ontario has put the saloon on the discard and the whiskey bottle on the struggle shelf, along with the strychnine and chloroform.

FOR THE HEATHEN ONLY

A collection was being taken up in a Scotch church on Sunday on behalf of the heathen. The minister made a stirring appeal, and the warden started his round with the box. One of the first members of the congregation to whom he offered it, says a writer in the Church Family Newspaper, was evidently ill-disposed to the cause. In a stage whisper, heard alike by congregation and pastor, this man said in blank verbiage:

"Tak it awa, lad. I'm not going to give awt." At that period the collection-boxes were taken direct into the vestry. Down came the preacher from the pulpit, went into the vestry, brought out one of the boxes, and marched straight toward the gentleman, all the congregation imagining that the minister was going to shame the unbeliever into giving something. The clergyman offered the box to the heathen with the naive remark: "Tak what thou wantest, lad; it has been gatherer for the heathen!"

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Do not relegate to the junk heap used-but-useful articles which may be urgently needed by many people who would find it hard to purchase them at first hand. Don't permit any useful article you own to be a "slacker." If you cannot use it, sell it to somebody who can.

Business Directory

MEDICAL

THOMAS GRAY, M. D., C. M., MCGILL L. B. C. P., Edinburgh; I. R. P. P. & H. Glasgow. Member British Medical Association, etc.
Office--Frederick Street, Acton, Ont.

Dr. J. A. McNIVEN
Physician and Surgeon
Office and Residence--Corner Dover Avenue and Elgin Streets, the residence formerly occupied by Dr. M. Henderson, Acton, Ont.

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