

The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

The Free Press appreciates the kind words of its conferees. The Renfrew Mercury last week said: "The Acton Free Press has entered on its forty-fifth year of usefulness, forty-one of which have been completed under the guiding hand of the present editor, Mr. H. P. Moore. The Free Press is a splendid type of home weekly, always standing for all that is best in the life of the community, and it is well deserving of the generous support accorded it."

The fire loss in Canada for last year amounted to \$30,000,000, seventy per cent. of which was due to carelessness, according to an estimate by the Commission of Conservation. The loss amounts to about \$4 per capita; in England the fire loss is about \$0.64 per capita. Here is a fruitful place for Canadian effort at betterment. Why should this country have more than six times the fire loss of England? It seems almost criminal that this country should lose \$21,000,000 a year from fire, through carelessness.

Summarized, the reports gathered by the various financial and government departments state that the crops as a whole in Canada are in a fair condition. Rains have been general in the past week, but in many districts the grains are short and the hoe crops rather unsatisfactory. Taking the province of Ontario all through the crops will come up to about the average, according to reports from various sources. Good growing weather from now on would doubtless change the situation materially for the late crops. Haying is over, and in this crop the yield was far above the normal. The fall wheat and barley harvests are now in progress. The yield will be above the average. The apple crop is not good in most localities.

From present indications the next general elections in Canada will have as many varieties of candidates as appear on the ballots in an election in the United States. The old Conservative and Liberal parties are gradually lining up on the old principles which they so strenuously enunciated before the war. The Union Government will no doubt be before the country again on their war record administration. The farmers' organizations claim they will elect eighty members in the next house; the labor interests already have their members and are reaching out; and now the Great War Veterans' Association are discussing whether they should take an active part in politics. In fact it has already been decided in West Toronto by that organization to place candidates in the Federal, Provincial and Municipal elections.

These are trying days among the young folks. Examination results are eagerly looked for from day to day. Sometimes there are disappointments in these results. People of experience always have feelings of sympathy for those who are not successful after a year of honest study and hard work in the effort to gain a certain end. Many young people freely express themselves as to what they would do if they had the talent of some classmate. But the best method for all is to use all the talent they have and make the most of the opportunities that come their way. Some of the most brilliant educationists failed in some of their scholastic examinations. They found, as young people to-day will find, that the experience in writing at an examination is invaluable in succeeding tests of a similar character. Start in again determined to win success when the time for the next examination comes around.

"Canada is strategically situated for binding Great Britain and the United States together," was the important position in which Dr. S. D. Chown, general superintendent of the Methodist Church, in an address at the Methodist Centenary Exposition, at Columbus, Ohio, last Friday placed our country. "With this bond secure we may confidently assume a future peace and progress of the world," said Dr. Chown. "Canada is not a hermit nation, but has a world-wide interest and is a world power. It is a power that shall be needed to make the League of Nations a permanent force in world reconstruction." He declared that there is a close bond between Canadians and Americans. "The cords that bind us are as light as gossamer, but as strong as steel. Your fathers achieved our liberty when they gained your own. Our liberty possesses every element of freedom except the power to destroy itself."

With commendable firmness and enterprise the government and other organizations of Italy is taking measures to ensure lower prices in the cost of living and peace and order throughout the country. The Chamber of Labor has issued a manifesto saying that having received guarantees that the prices of necessities will be reduced 50 per cent., it invites the people to return to work. The Government intends to maintain order with firmness and without hesitation or weakness, said the Premier, speaking before Parliament last Friday. He summarized the programme of the Government by saying that it was planned to hasten the peace negotiations so that peace could be concluded at once, with the upholding of Italian national aspirations. The rapid transformation from a war to a peace footing is to be effected and what was rendered necessary by the conflict and has become superfluous and indeed, harmful, in peace, will be abolished. The bitter condition of the people will be alleviated by the Government, which is aiming at lower prices, without which, he said, "it is impossible to guarantee social peace." Financial and economic reforms rendered necessary by new conditions will be rapidly prepared, the maintenance of public order being indispensable for realization of the entire programme.

TELL US THE NEWS

We presume that there never was a newspaper in any locality that gave all the local happenings. It is in this respect that the reporter does not see, it happens that the family is missed several times. They get the impression that the editor does not care to mention them. This is a mistake. In most countries news is the local work in the hardest work connected with a newspaper. A man may be a good editorial writer, but a failure at the local work, and vice versa. Editorial material is obtained by study, by reading newspapers, sometimes by using scissors. Personal and local happenings can't be read and clipped from other papers. It takes physical as well as mental exertion to get ten or twelve columns of local news in a town of this size. Most people take a local paper to get the local happenings. Don't be afraid to tell the editor or reporter that you have friends who are interested in your friends. You owe it as a duty to them to let your friends know of their doings. Perhaps you think the paper shows partiality, but just see if the paper doesn't treat you right if you give it a chance.—Walkerton Telescope.

A BOY AND HIS CONSCIENCE

One Monday morning after a hard Sunday service, from which I got little rest during the night, I arose early, dressed, went into the parlor, and sat down for meditation. Involuntarily I began singing: "I am thinking to-day of that beautiful the deities of mine, when the sun goeth down." "Will there be any stars, any stars in my East, When at evening the sun goeth down?" I sang on through the chorus: "Will there be any stars, any stars in my East, When at evening the sun goeth down?" Casting a glance through the open door into the bedroom, I saw two little bare feet peeping from under the cover. Presently a little figure in the gown of white slipped to the floor, hesitated a moment, then came timidly into the room, climbed up to my lap, put his chubby arms about my neck, and with his great black eyes searching the depths of mine, asked: "Papa, will there be any stars in my crown?" I said: "Yes, son, if you are a good boy and have done the things you ought to do, there will be many stars in your crown."

THE GOSPEL OF HAPPINESS

A woman who had many sorrows and heavy burdens to bear, but who was asked for her cheerful spirit, once said in explanation: "You know I have no money. I had nothing to give but myself. I would never mention anyone else with my troubles. I have laughed and told jokes when I could have wept. I have always smiled in the face of every misfortune. I have tried never to let anyone go from my presence without a happy word or a bright thought to carry with him. And making happiness engenders happiness. I myself had I sat down and bemoaned my fate." This gospel of happiness is one set out with the invincible determination that you will bear burdens and not impose them. Whether the sun shines or the rain falls, show a glad face to your neighbor. If you must fall in life's battle, you can at least fall with a smile on your face.—Christian Work.

HOW BRIDGES BREATHE

Like us mortals, big steel bridges feel the changes in the weather, and must be built to withstand them, or perish. In the heat of summer a bridge is appreciably longer than it is in the winter, and at various times of the year it may be longer on one side than on the other, as when a hot sun plays on one flank, and a cold wind impinges on the other. The "breathing apparatus" of a bridge consists of rollers under the feet at one end, so that the end can move to and fro freely according to the expansion and contraction of the huge girders. Provision is made in the case of the Forth Bridge for such a two feet of "breathing" of the immense cantilevers.

LUCKY ADAM

The day Adam was condemned to work for a living was the luckiest day of his life. He had all the world given him to work in, no rent to pay, the whole crop for himself, no landlord or other man to divide profits with, and every lick of his hoe was a lick for himself. Every drop of sweat he shed upon the land watered his own crop, and he did not have to fence against his neighbor's chickens. He was contented to sweat, but he found, as his sons have since found, that sweat is the best medicine in the world's drug store.

The once popular assertion, made so emphatically in certain quarters, that "Prohibition does not prohibit," is now effectively combated with evidence from the very manufacturers of intoxicating liquors themselves. On the same day last week two items of interesting news appeared in the daily papers. One was from Windsor which stated that as the temperance laws of Canada forced the Hiram Walker & Sons' distillery to find markets overseas, they shipped by one steamship from Walkerville, outward bound for Glasgow, Scotland, 1,100 tons of whiskey valued at over \$1,000,000. The other item stated that "Shipments of whiskey by the carload are being made from Hamilton daily. It is being sent to Scotland, and is from a quantity stored at Hamilton previous to the war, of which there is nearly 8,000 barrels yet to be shipped." Poor Scotland!

Though a Board of Commerce has been created to get after profiteering of all sorts, and some other tentative suggestions are made to alleviate the present high cost of living, the final report tabled in the House of Commons before rising shows that the Cost of Living Committee members believe, after hearing all the evidence, that all these things are but palliatives, that no real influence can be exerted on the situation, except by getting the soldiers and war workers back into productive activity, and by getting the consuming public to live frugally and use thrift. They believe that the war only accelerated the steady rise in the price of commodities, and that probably never again will this or any other country get back to the levels before the war. However, let us all conscientiously determine to live frugally and observe commendable thrift in the handling of our wages and incomes.

Unified control, which played such a large part in the Allied victory, has been secured in connection with the great fight ahead of the temperance forces in the Province of Ontario, in the approaching referendum. As a result of many conferences between the temperance leaders of the various organizations, a strong central Provincial Committee has been formed to conduct the referendum campaign, under the name of the Ontario Referendum Committee, with Mr. John Macdonald, wholesale dry goods merchant, as chairman. The management of the campaign will be in the hands of that splendid leader of moral reform forces, Dr. A. S. Grant, who commands the respect of all who know him, and there are few in the Province of Ontario who do not. Under these two leaders a Board of Control, composed of experienced campaign workers, will manage the campaign.

"Three months ago the labor situation in Great Britain was menacing in the extreme," says the New York Sun. That is true. A general strike seemed certain. An industrial revolution was probable. And what did Great Britain do? Lloyd George called together representatives of employers and employees and urged them on grounds of patriotism and self-interest to come to an agreement. Much discussion was indulged in, but in the end the employers and the workers did get together. They appointed a committee of thirty representatives of the trade unions and thirty representatives of the employers' associations and instructed them to go into the whole matter of labor and other industrial questions and suggest a practical scheme of reform. That committee has succeeded, an agreement has been reached providing for a forty-eight-hour week, a minimum wage, discouragement of overtime, trade conferences at suitable intervals, unemployment insurance, and old-age pensions. This is an example of British good sense, and there is in it a lesson for Americans.—Nashville Advocate. And just as reasonably may be added, a lesson for Canada, too.

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