

# The Acton Free Press

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H. P. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.

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## EDITORIAL

The indications are that the bill before the House of Commons empowering the Government to take over the Grand Trunk Railway will be carried in the House by a large majority. It is believed the Senate will also approve of the bill. Judging from the deliberation of the debate it will be another week before the vote is taken.

Enactment of the prohibition enforcement bill has been completed by the Congress of the United States with the House adopting the conference report, already agreed to by the Senate, and sending the measure to the President for approval. Complete congressional approval of the bill means that the days of two and three-quarters per cent. beer are numbered. The bill becomes effective as soon as signed by President Wilson, or automatically within ten days should his illness prevent him from acting on it.

Great Britain's far-seeing premier, Lloyd George, in a sane and characteristic speech at Sheffield on Thursday called upon the British people to see that the peace was a real peace. "It is not the British habit," he said, "to nag, harry, insult and trample a bleeding foe. So long as Germany conforms to the conditions we have laid down, we must give her a clear chance to lead a decent, peaceable and honorable existence. This is in the interests not merely of Germany, but of Great Britain and the whole world." This splendid spirit is worthy of emulation. It breathes forth the principles of Christian humanity and the whole world will indeed be benefited by carrying this spirit into effect.

In the House of Commons when the question of continuing to permit the sale of oleomargarine in Canada was up for discussion Mr. Crear supported the Government Bill for oleomargarine on the ground that the Canadian farmer should make good enough butter to face competition at home as it faced competition in every other country of the world. He assured Ontario farmers that oleomargarine would not destroy their industry. No country in the world in proportion to its size exported so much butter as Denmark, and yet Denmark permitted the manufacture and importation of oleomargarine. The laboring class want oleomargarine because it is more in keeping with their income and the high cost of living.

The Veteran, the official paper of the G. W. V. A., sizes up matters about right when it says: "When highwaymen of the road stage a robbery of some seventy thousand dollars the police and detective forces of two provinces are loosed on their trail, big rewards are offered for their capture, and a real man-hunt is conducted. When highwaymen of commerce 'put over' a profiteering deal which takes toll from every widow in the country, and runs into hundreds of thousands of dollars, 'society' extends the 'glad hand' and bemoans the fact that titles have been abolished." Profiteers would undoubtedly soon find their levels if the authorities got after them with the same vim as they do after the ordinary common place robber.

Judging from the statement of bank clearings for the last month Canada is doing an unprecedented amount of business. The clearings advanced 40 per cent. over September of last year which itself was a large month. All sections of the country shared in the advance of business, some cities doing double the trade of September, 1918. Many quite remarkable increases, outside of the especially large advances of Winnipeg and Windsor, were noted. Toronto gained 37 per cent., Brantford 47 per cent., Kitchener 57 per cent., London 35 per cent., Ottawa 51 per cent., Edmonton 60 per cent., Prince Albert 94 per cent. The present remarkable period of prosperity in Canada will be maintained if the Victory Loan, 1919 is made an overwhelming success. Business men realize this and in the interests of themselves and the country are being urged to press the importance of the coming loan upon every one with whom they come in contact.

Our electors have just had the responsibility of two elections. Two more are to come on the 31st inst. The formal endorsement of the Council's transference of the shoe factory project from the Reliance Shoe Co., of Toronto, to Gourelly & Co., of Kitchener, is involved in the Shoe Factory by-law. It would be folly to do otherwise than to vote unanimously in favor of this by-law, inasmuch as the debentures are sold and the shoe factory is erected and the municipalities responsibility for the \$25,000 is unquestioned. By passing the by-law the Council believes the town is securing a concern at once which will be a hive of industry before the new year, giving employment to a large number of citizens. The Waterworks by-law is of great importance and will be voted upon at the same time. Acton seriously needs a system of waterworks. Better water supply is most desirable. More adequate fire protection should be provided our citizens. Sanitary conveniences demand waterworks for the general health of the community. A good waterworks system will result in reduced fire insurance rates. Acton has been uniquely fortunate in immunity from disastrous fires in the past. One sweeping fire, however, such as many other towns have been so unfortunate as to experience, because of insufficient fire protection, would easily cost far more in a few hours than the proposed waterworks system will cost the town in thirty years. Citizens will study their own best interests and the interests of the town's future prosperity by giving their strong support to this municipal enterprise.

A strong measure to reduce the traffic in opium, cocaine and morphine to a minimum has been introduced in the House of Commons by Hon. N. W. Rowell. He is credited with being the author of the "bone-dry" prohibition bill, which has been shelved for a few days. Now he backs it with this new bill. The resolution upon which the measure was based was passed without opposition and the bill given first reading. It is pretty certain to go through both Houses by a large majority.

Several additions to the present provisions for the re-establishment of returned soldiers in civil life may result from the deliberations of the Commons Committee now considering the subject. A revision of the pension scale may be forthcoming to provide more generously for the dependents of soldiers who fell at the front and for men incapacitated by injuries sustained in service. Government assistance to men who are unable by reason of injuries to secure life insurance and Government aid in the form of unemployment insurance for ex-soldiers are also under consideration.

A Beauty show for the ladies was a feature of Acton's Fall Fair, and the Free Press now proposes a men's class next year. To Secretary Overend we suggest the same for Orillia, with Herman Scratch and Captain George McLean barred. They should be reserved for a handicap. Meantime why should not some of the rest of the less favored go into training? The famous French tragedian Lekain says a recent writer, was a plain man, whose countenance was not by nature mobile or expressive. By the time he had fully mastered his art, however, he was able to produce the illusion of beauty by the sheer force of acting, and the murmur, "Is he not handsome? What a radiant countenance!" often passed among his audience.—Orillia Packet.

There is an impression in some quarters that the total amount of money invested by subscribers in the Victory Loan 1919 will be subject to taxation. This impression is erroneous. It will be the interest only from the investment that will be taxed, not the principal invested. As a matter of fact very few investors in the new loan will be brought within the scope of the Income War Act by reason of investments in Victory Bonds. With small investors the law does not become effective under \$2,000 in the case of married persons or persons with dependents. Municipalities and fraternal societies will not be subject to taxation in their investments in the loan at all. The interest from the bonds will not be more taxable than ordinary income, subject to the general law of the land.

Canada is evidently well able to purchase her own Victory Bonds. A total of \$1,106,032,031 in savings bank deposits is a gratifying report that many of the countries which have emerged from war would be glad to report to-day. This is the position of Canada as revealed in the bank statement for August. The amount is \$181,921,068 better than the same month of last year, notwithstanding the fact that a good part of it was transferred to last year's \$600,000,000 Victory Loan, and is \$21,540,788 better than July of this year. This is a promising outlook for the Victory Loan campaign which is at present being carried on. If the depositors in Canada's savings banks were to say the word, they could subscribe the \$300,000,000 asked nearly four times over. The success of the present effort should be overwhelming.

The agitation throughout the labor world for shorter hours and larger pay is naturally bound to militate against the much desired reduction in the cost of living. If shorter hours and higher wages are to prevail the law of economics render it absolutely imperative that the cost of living shall increase in like ratio. The workmen is worthy of his hire and should be paid the highest possible wages by all industries, but there must be a commensurate amount of production on their part and this cannot be assured by a reduction of the hours of work per day or week. An intelligent farmer said the other day: "What would become of the country if we worked only forty-four hours a week?" He adds: "I don't see why a man except in real heavy work, should not work ten hours a day. Work was intended to keep a man straight. If a lot of men had more work, there would not be so much devilment in your cities."

The action of the Legislature in extending the franchise to women was fully justified in the record of ballots cast at the elections on Monday. There was no lack of interest on the part of lady voters, nor did their natural timidity cause them to refrain from the exercise of their franchise. Fully as many women visited the polls and cast their votes as men. They manifested just as intelligent an interest as the men. In the vote as to whether the liquor traffic was to be re-installed in Ontario, or relegated to oblivion, their interest was more keen and aggressive, inasmuch as the evil effects of this insidious and unnecessary traffic has touched with more baneful results the women and the children and the home. In the election of members of parliament and the pronouncement on all public issues the women have as keen discernment and as wise judgment as the men who have monopolized the franchise in all the years of the past. Time will amply prove the truth of this assertion. The betterment of Canada's future depends largely upon the influence of the women at the ballot box.

Some, at least, of Germany's leaders are beginning to realize "Kultur" as interpreted and acted upon was a grave and disastrous error. Prof. Edward Meyer, the famous historian, in his inaugural address as rector of the University of Berlin last week said: "Germany's much vaunted organization fell down badly in the war, while the Allies' improvised organization accomplished much. We must not be blind to the faults in the structure of our state for which we have paid so heavy a penalty," said he. "The excessive extension of our organization, through soul-killing schematism and endless red tape, does away with respectability, breeds an incompetent, ambitious class, and will not permit merit and ability to come to the top. While, in their seeming superiority our bureaucracy and organization seduced us into smiling boastfulness and needlessly brusque and blundering behavior, in reality our system was not equal to the tremendous task imposed on it, either during the war, or at present. Our enemies, with their improvised organization giving free play to persons of superior ability, accomplished far more than we could." Prof. Meyer added that Germany's collapse eclipsed all catastrophes in history, even the downfall of Carthage and Athens.

## HOW TO KILL A CLUB OR SOCIETY

1. Don't come.
2. If you do come, come late.
3. If you get to the club, do not go to the committee, don't think of coming to a meeting, don't get into any of the committee's affairs.
4. Don't have anything to say when you are called upon.
5. If you do attend a meeting, don't go to the proceedings and work done by the other members.
6. Hold back your dues, or don't pay them at all.
7. Never bring a friend whom you think might join.
8. Don't attend any social functions provided by the society.
9. Don't do anything more than you can possibly help to further the society's interest; refuse to use any of the society's money.
10. If you are the power plant of the whole universe and that the whole society would be dark if you quit, neglected.

## DUTY

There are persons who love to do everything good but that which their immediate duty calls for. There are persons that will serve anyone more cheerfully than their masters; there are those who will do anything for a dollar, but who will not do a thing for a familiar word which has little effect upon an ordinary mind; and, as for those who are called upon to do a duty, they will do it, but they will do it in a way that will make a vast majority of us have sets of generally self-denial and honesty, where smaller pains would constitute greater virtues.—Mrs. Hubbard.

## THE LAST BEST HOPE

Amid the wild clamor for the dollar or the mad rush for pleasure, the destruction and confusion on every hand, it will be well for us to remember these words of Lincoln: "As we keep, or break, the Sabbath, day we only save, or meanly lose, the best best hope by which man lives."

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## WINTER PROTECTION OF PLANTS

Alternate freezing and thawing may be the cause of plants winter killing, or the winter killing may result from continued cold drying out the wood. The latter killing is noticeable in the case of raspberries and roses. The more mature the canes or wood the less the liability to injury. Conditions favorable for late fall growth may produce wood that will not stand the temperature if more mature, as a degree of maturity in the wood will lessen the injury due to a low temperature. To protect raspberry canes they are bent over along the row and covered with straw. Care is necessary not to break the canes. The canes are bent over and the tips covered and well filled under the parts that do not touch the ground, insulating up until the whole plant is covered. This covering is removed gradually early in the spring. Climbing roses may be taken down and covered as indicated for raspberries, and the bushes pruned up one plant to a depth of eight or ten inches around the plant. The branches may be cut to good length but the necessary buds will be kept alive under the covering and all the dead branches can be cut to good length in the spring. Over this mound around the rose plants a mulch of three or four inches of straw or manure should be placed. This should be done just before continuous cold weather sets in and removed as soon as the sap begins to flow in the spring. In mounding avoid leaving deep holes for water to lodge in near the roots of the plants.

Personals are letters of a light touch about two inches deep. However, care should be exercised in not making it too deep to cause rotting of the crown. This is particularly liable to happen with the biennial such as digitalis or foxglove, campanula, pansy, sweet william and hollyhock, for which a light covering of straw just sufficient so that the plants can be seen through the straw is best. The soil is just sufficient to prevent excessive freezing and thawing but not enough to hold the crown wet during a continuous mild spell.—W. S. Blair, Superintendent Experimental Station, Kentville, N. S.

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The Acton Free Press has made arrangements with the Family Herald and Weekly Star whereby we are permitted to include the Prince's photo in a clubbing offer.

We now make the following offer, good only until December 31st, 1919:

- The Family Herald and Weekly Star one year, cost \$1.25
- The Acton Free Press one year, cost \$1.50

We offer both papers for one year each, and an autographed copy of the Prince of Wales' portrait, size 16x22 inches, all for \$2.75.

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## The Acton Free Press

WARNING—This offer is good only until December 31st, 1919, when it is announced the price of the Family Herald will be \$1.50 a year.

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