The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

Mothers' pensions has again become a live subject. This is perhaps one early result of the enfranchisement of women. This idea has long been on the program of the reformers, who recognize that without properly-trained children society can never be regenerated.

The Acton Free Press says, "Halton may be a small county, but she's proud nevertheless to have the Prime Minister of Ontario as her representative in the Legislature." North York will be prouder still if she elects the Premier of the Dominion at the next general election, and it looks quite like it.—Newmarket Era.

The relations between Great Britain and France have become exceeding cordial. "France and Great Britain are united forever," President Deschanel, of France, asserted in a message printed in the Morning Post last Saturday. They have joined, he said, to assure independence for every European nation and tranquility in the world. "Our entente constitutes the keystone of the League of Nations."

Wellington County appreciates having cabinet ministers as parliamentary representatives. The Guelph Herald says: "With the Minister of Militia for Canada representing the south riding of Wellington in the House of Commons, and the Attorney-General of Ontario elected by acclamation to represent the east riding, the County of Wellington may well be proud of its representation in the legislative halls of this country."

Even the Yukon Territory which for years was so largely under the ban of intoxicating liquors, has decided to banish this curse. Territorial-wide prohibition of the liquor traffic has been endorsed by the people in the plebiscite just held. The bone-drys, with a few more polls to hear from, have a substantial majority over those favoring a continuance of the bar, and a larger plurality even over those favoring the establishment of Government liquor agencies.

The constituencies of Premier Drury and Hon. W. E. Raney are contiguous. At ancient Ballinafad one can, as it were, step out of the back door of compact little Halton, cross the street and walk right into the side door of crooked, elongated East Wellington—a constituency fashioned to suit political exigencies during a gerrymander, and which the late John Anderson used to say might be worshipped without violating the decalogue, as it resembled nothing in the heavens above, or the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth.—Fergus News-Record.

At the conclusion of the official count of the by-election ballots last Monday Mr. Stephenson said he had no complaint to make, no doubt referring to the work of the election officials. Elsewhere he spoke of a possible protest, on account of alleged irregularities, one of them being the alleged distribution in Oakville of a pro-Drury sheet decorated with the Union Jack. The idea of a protest was discouraged by his friends. He was told that it would serve no good purpose, even if successful. The general desire is to have the Government try its hand at governing and stand or fall as the result.—Champion.

One Good Road to Guelph at Last

"The announcement made yesterday by Hon. F. C. Biggs, that the Ontario Government purposes taking over at once the Hamilton-Guelph-Owen Sound road as a Provincial highway, is one of the most pleasing assurances that this section of the Province has received since the new Government took hold."—Guelph Herald. When completed Guelph will have one decent road leading into the city. It is sincerely to be hoped that the City Council will then awake to the desirability of constructing roads from the city limits inward which are at least passible and which do not jeopardize farmers' eggs or motorists' springs every time they try to visit the Royal City.

Cut Out Luxuries and Reduce Exchange

Considerable discussion has been caused in Parliamentary circles by the suggestion of bankers, bond and stock brokers that the Dominion Government should place an embargo on the import of luxuries and non-essentials into Canada, so as to supplement their campaign to prevent the sending of Canadian funds abroad to purchase foreign securities. All these measures, suitable only to a time of great stress, are claimed to be necessary now, in order that Canadian money may be diverted into Canadian channels for the purpose of extending and making stable existing industries as well as in the establishment of new ones, and reducing the present vexatious exchange charges.

Greater Production Commanding More Attention

A great increase in production throughout the Dominion during the ensuing year in all branches of industry is predicted by Dr. J. W. Robertson, a leading authority on trade matters, who will shortly complete an extended tour of Canada which he has carried out at the instigation of the Government for the benefit of producers. "Canadian producers are steadying down to realize the great opportunity they have of making money by great production," he says. "There may be the impetus of self-interest in bringing them to their conclusions, but in entering upon a campaign of increased production they are not only going to do good to the country, but they are rendering great help to humanity." There was no doubt, he said, that this year will be one of the greatest from the point of view of trade that the Dominion has yet had.

A Mortuary is a Necessity

For many years it has been felt that a mortuary with burial vaults at Fairview Cemetery would be a most desirable addition. But the experience of the past two winters has showed that such an adjunct to the cemetery is now an absolute necessity. The unusual number of burials during the excessively cold weather, with five feet of frost in the ground, has rendered the matter of interments a hardship of the direst character. An average of a grave a day, which was necessary last week, proved conclusively that the present obsolete method of winter interments cannot reasonably be continued. This is a matter which demands the attention of the Municipal Council. The need is impressively manifest. Action is an imperative duty.

Good Roads for Ontario are Sure

Motor cars have become a necessity to the farmer. Nearly every farmer in Ontario realizes this. A great many already have them and they are put to profitable and pleasurable uses. Good roads in Ontario were assured when the farmers began to regard motor cars as necessities of country life rather than luxuries for the rich. There appears to be a sincere desire on the part of the Ontario Government to tackle the problem of Provincial Highways in a business-like way. To the list of roads which, henceforth will be taken care of by the Roadways Department of the Government the stretch from Lake Ontario at Port Credit to the Georgian Bay at Owen Sound has been added, and more will be added in the near future.

The Eight Hour Day Problem

The labor demand for the adoption of an eight-hour day, so insistent in some quarters, is not likely to be an issue at the coming session of the Legislature. The labor section of the coalition government has decided not to precipitate a crisis at this first session by making a strike for the eight-hour order. Instead, the labor members, as a group, will ask the Government for the appointment of a commission to investigate the whole subject of a shorter work-day with a view to legislation at a subsequent session of the House. The decision to go slowly with the eight-hour day and not attempt to force upon their allies, the farmers, a measure for which they are not ready and to which in the main they are strongly opposed, was made at a meeting of the labor members last week.

A Bill to Reduce Fire Loss

Twenty-five years ago if any public man had suggested an act of parliament to compel the erection of lightning rods he would have been deemed a ripe subject for an asylum or jail. In those days every farmer on every concession line was counted fair prey for the cupidity of the lightning rod agent. During the intervening years, however, studious investigation and scientific improvement have shown that properly erected and carefully grounded lightning-rods and equipment will, beyond any peradventure, protect buildings against loss from fire by lightning. One of the bills to be introduced at the first session of the new Government will be an act to make compulsory the installation of lightning rod equipment on practically all barns, elevators, mills and other buildings housing foodstuffs which might be erected in the province in the future. And this bill will be presented by a member of the Government. If enacted this bill will require all such buildings to have lightning rods installed as soon as possible after January 1, 1921. A penalty of non-compliance is provided in the bill.

The Real Business of Farming To-day

"Organization, co-operation and education are going hand in hand throughout the agricultural districts of the country," is the opinion of W. J. Rutherford, Dean of the Saskatchewan College of Agriculture, who expresses the following views: "Farming is not the independent self-contained occupation that it was a generation ago. Conditions have changed from the pioneer days, and production has not only to do with supplying the demands of the home, but it must aim to create an export trade. Farming is a real business, successfully carried on by men and women who are not only skilful in the art and practice, but are versed in the science of agriculture. Farmers to-day are not content to know only how to grow good crops, they want to know also how to market them to good advantage. They are interested in the economic problems of their own communities and to a great extent in the problems of their customers in town and city. Agriculture is both industry and commerce and affects both the rural and the city population. The agriculturist of to-day is not merely a practical farmer, but is necessarily a social worker. Rural communities have problems which require college trained men to solve."

The British Bill for Drink

It was pointed out in the British House of Commons last week that the British drink bill is advancing by leaps and bounds. In 1914 it was estimated at about $800,000,000, but in 1918 it had reached nearly $1,300,000,000, and this year it is estimated at nearly $2,000,000,000. The fact that Britain, with her tremendous war debt hanging over her, is spending two billion dollars a year for beer and whiskey, while the United States, her great business rival, with no war debt, has deliberately, and from business motives, cut out the liquor, does not augur well for Britain in her struggle for commerical supremacy. It is no wonder that Sir Donald McLean, in the Commons, referring to the matter, declared that the size of Britain's drink bill "absolutely staggered him." The liquor question is receiving attention in both houses of Parliament. It has been announced that the Government is about to introduce a bill which will shorten the hours of sale, and the experiment in state management will be continued. The liquor traffic has long been a blot on the British Isles, but there is now a promise of restrictions, the advantages of which may lead public opinion to demand prohibition. During the debate last week Lady Astor spoke on the question. She did not think that the country was ready for prohibition, but added that the country was ready for drastic drink reforms. She concluded with a fervent appeal for reform, adding the significant words: "I am trying to speak for thousands of women and children who cannot speak for themselves." The women whose lives were wronged and whose homes were wrecked by the liquor traffic have been granted the franchise, and have it in their power now to exert a wholesome influence on future legislation.

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(Signed) An Acton Boy.
You Can Start on Monday
A. L. BOUCK - PRIN.

INCREASED YIELDS FOLLOW THE SOWING OF GOOD SEEDS

Beautiful cultural methods must be practised. Disking oats or other small grain in corn stalk ground is not a good method of seeding, but where this is necessary, it should be more carefully done so as to secure a fine even seed bed. Deep disking is not as desirable as a thorough pulverization of the surface. Fall plowing in the northern part of the state will pay well wherever this can be done. Fall plowed land can be worked earlier in the spring than stalk land. A few days delay in seeding may seriously reduce the yield. Observations on uninterrupted seedings only, the station grounds have substantiated this statement many times. Drilling the seed is always better than broadcasting, because it insures more even covering and a more even distribution of the seed.

Finally, it is important to use good seed and good varieties. Thorough cleaning and grading of the seed will insure a better stand and add several bushels to the yield. A good fanning mill or other seed grader should be a part of every small grain grower's equipment. The results of experiments conducted for several years at the Ohio, Kansas, Minnesota and Canadian experiment stations with oats, have shown an average increase of nine bushels per acre from the use of large, heavy seed as compared with small and light seed. Good seed must be free of plant diseases. Most of these are readily preventable by proper seed treatment.—Purdue Experiment Station, Indiana.

HE COULD DO IT

"Now boys," said the schoolmaster, during an examination in geography, "what is the angle of the earth?"

Johnny raised his hand promptly.

"Well, Johnny, how would you describe it?"

"The axis of the earth," said Johnny, promptly, "is an imaginary line which passes from one pole to the other, and on which the earth revolves."

"Very good,"—exclaimed the teacher; "Now, could you hang clothes on that line, Johnny?"

"Yes, sir," was the reply.

"Indeed?" said the examiner, disappointed; "and what sort of clothes?"

"Imaginary clothes, sir."—Harper's Weekly.

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There's over-strength in the Gray-Dort frame of heavy channel steel; in the husky, Chatham-built rear axle; in the long, cantilever rear springs; in the specially designed, new steering gear; in the big brakes, now lined with Thermoid. The front wheels now have roller bearings. There is a new gas tank—larger, and in the rear.

Convenience of riding and driving is in the Gray-Dort. The steering wheel is of the height and size for tireless driving. The gears can be shifted with two fingers' pressure. The horn, the ignition and light switches, the clutch and brakes, all are placed for greatest ease in driving.

A shorter and smarter cowl now gives more room in the driving compartment. A new Gray-Dort feature has greatly increased the leg-room in the tonneau. Seats are tilted at just the proper angle for comfort. As in cars costing $2000 and upwards, the Gray-Dort now has side-curtains opening with the doors.

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The Gray-Dort is not startlingly extreme, the Gray-Dort is a car of quiet beauty—smooth lines and perfect proportions. The smart, new top is hand-tailored in our own shops. The new hood, with its many long, narrow louvres lends just a touch of European style. French-pleated upholstery, too.

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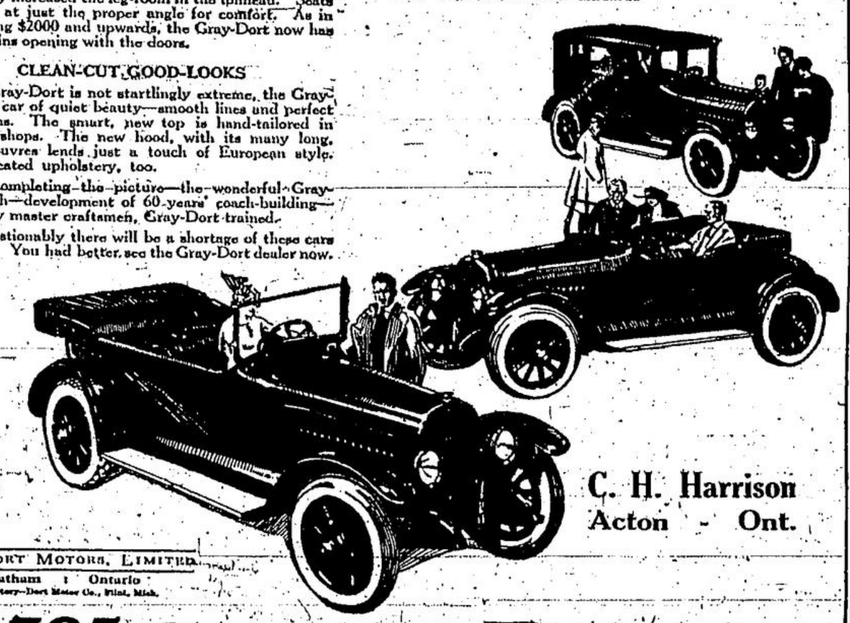

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