The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

Students who fail in, or are unable to write on normal and faculty entrance and matriculation examinations in June this year, will receive a second opportunity in September, Hon. R. H. Grant has announced in connection with the new policy of the Education Department respecting examinations.

The Dominion Government is considering a state insurance system for men injured during the war. The regular companies will not accept many of the wounded and gassed veterans as risks. The Government has a manifest duty to provide insurance for these veterans.

Good roads are more essential to the farmer than to the city dweller. They enable the farmer to market his produce at less cost in less time. Furthermore, they effect a direct saving in the upkeep of horses, waggons and other vehicles. Every man in the country districts should be a booster for good roads and most of them now are.

Statistics just issued show that Great Britain's war losses in her population are being made good by nature. Births registered during last quarter of 1919 were 223,560, against 114,760 deaths. Births gained 48,202 over previous quarter, and 61,704 over corresponding quarter in 1918. Birth rate was highest since 1906 and deaths were on the decrease. Infant mortality registered 7.1 per cent. per thousand, the lowest rate on record. Improved education and greater development in infant welfare work were credited with aiding the favorable showing as to infant mortality. In 1919 England's population increased 179,426, not including the gain in births.

J. W. Curry, the Liberal member for South-East Toronto, put himself on record in the debate on the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature on the prohibition question the other day. He said: "Regarding temperance, if it was advantageous in time of war it was necessary and obligatory in times of peace. I have no apology to make in saying I am in favor of the Ontario Temperance Act and any amendment that may be made thereto which may be in the interests of making it more effective and beneficial to the people of the Province." It is refreshing to observe public men in political life so frankly avow themselves on such important moral issues.

The Provincial Election Act

The proposed holding of the Ontario elections on a fixed date in October every fourth year is a reasonable arrangement. It deprives the Government in office of the chance to spring the elections at the moment most favorable to their own interests. An upright Elections Act is one of the necessities of reform. The measure fixes qualification to vote as 12 months' residence in Ontario, three months in the electoral district prior to the day of polling, but provision is made for addition of the names of persons who have moved from one electoral district to another within the three months' period. Provision is made for special polling places in hospitals, and returning officers, poll clerks and agents are authorized to take the vote of bed-ridden patients.

New Method for Housing Scheme

No further financial assistance being forthcoming from the Dominion Government, the Ontario Housing Scheme as it has existed will be wound up at the end of the present year. This was announced in the Legislature last week by the Provincial Secretary, in introducing a bill by which the Government hopes to encourage housing construction by municipalities throughout the Province, and by which the Government guarantees municipal bonds issued for this work. While no new loans will be made under the Act, a new schedule of allowances is fixed for municipalities now operating under the scheme. The new schedule increases the loan which may be made on a frame house, from $3,000 to $3,500; on a brick veneer house, from $3,000 to $4,000, and on one of solid construction from $4,000 to $4,800. To each of these amounts, $600 may be added if the cost of the land is to be included. There is still opportunity for Acton to take advantage of the $30,000 granted by the Government, if the local Housing Commission will take prompt action and erect the houses which are so sorely needed here.

United States' Action Ties Canada's Hands

A despatch this week from London says: The most anomalous situation, which bids fair to seriously affect Canada's right to a voice in the affairs in her own hemisphere, which should be hers by right of membership in the League of Nations, has been discovered to exist as the result of the final rejection of the peace treaty by the United States. At the request of President Wilson, it appears, a change was made in the original draft of the covenant of the League, as a result of which practically every nation in the world, including Canada, bound herself to admit the Monroe doctrine in toto. Under another clause the members must submit all disputes to the International High Court of Arbitrators. The alteration in the covenant was made in full expectation that the United States would be a member of the League, and was practically the price of her entry. Canada is the chief nation whose interests are concerned, since with the United States out, she would naturally expect to exercise considerable influence in all proceedings of the League affecting the American continent, and will almost certainly have her own representative on the International High Court of Justice. By the alteration of the covenant her hands are tied.

The Voters' Lists of the Future

The municipal election lists are to be used as a basis for the Provincial lists and the Provincial lists as a basis for the Federal lists. So the whole thing will depend largely upon the efficiency of the assessors, who, after all, certainly know more about enumeration than any hired-for-the-moment enumerator. In other words, the lists will be prepared professionally instead of politically.—Star.

An Easter Number of Superior Qualities

The Easter number of the Christian Guardian excels all previous issues of this virile and influential weekly journal, of its ninety years of interesting history. It is in magazine form of sixty-eight pages, has specially engraved three-color cover, with an original and very timely symbolism of Easter on the front. Editorially, mechanically, and from the standpoint of inspirational contents, the Guardian's Easter number is highly creditable. Its largely increased circulation, which now reaches 35,000, gives this splendid church paper a wide and useful influence. Dr. Creighton, the talented editor, and Rev. Mr. Fallis, the energetic Book Steward, with their respective staffs, may feel a pardonable pride in the Guardian's Easter number.

The Shoe Factory Stagnation

Nothing definite has yet been accomplished in the matter of the settlement of the apparent deadlock in the Shoe Factory negotiations. The ratepayers of Acton are woefully tired of the apparent inaction. If anything is being done to effect a settlement of the problem and to secure the completion of the building, the people would like to know. Action is preferable to stagnation. "Something doing" is what citizens want to see. Surely some steps may be taken immediately for the restoration of the building. Let this be the first move, and let it be expeditious. If the building is put into proper condition, it will not be long before the wheels are turning there, either by the company with which negotiations have been in progress the past half year, or by some other concern. Let there be action; annihilate the stagnation.

The Fourth Home Rule Bill for Ireland

The new Home Rule bill is being considered this week in the British House of Commons. No other business will be considered until the new attempt to solve the problem has succeeded or failed. This is the fourth attempt to give Ireland self-government. It is a sincere attempt and with that conviction the Government is determined to succeed. The attempt is made at a time of exceptional stress and difficulty in Ireland with adverse criticism from unexpected quarters. Previous attempts have failed because they sought to force unity upon Ireland from without. The essential point of this bill is that Irishmen of every class and description will have an opportunity of repairing the deficiencies. The best proof that this measure is not fantastic, not a travesty and not a mockery, is the fact that the financial terms are more generous than ever have been offered.

Are we on the Eve of Commercial Reaction?

Monied institutions in New York are now predicting a commerical reaction and lower prices, probably in the near future. This result it is believed will promptly follow the falling-off of European orders, owing to the heavy exchange charges. The slacking up of orders for American products will result in the accumulation of large supplies of all sorts of commodities on the United States market. A decline in prices will then be inevitable. A good deal depends on whether credit will be extended freely or otherwise. The fact that the public is becoming more and more alive to the need of caution in buying is a good sign, and should be of valuable assistance in mitigating the evil results of any general decline of trade. It is believed that Canada will feel the coming depression less than the United States.

Annexation of the West Indies to Canada

A proposal from the United States that Britain should sell the West Indies to the republic has met with no favor either in Britain or in the Carribean group. A counter proposal is the revival of the idea of annexation to Canada. It is probable that the value and necessity for co-operation and centralization may bring this about some day. There are two ways of looking at the problem. One considers only the idea of aggregation and size. This is not really worth consideration at all. The other point of view is that of utility, of the value of co-operation, of exchange of products, and of the strength of a community which contains within itself all the necessary elements for national trade and commerce. This is really what constitutes the strength of the United States. Canada, with Newfoundland, united to the tropical lands of the West Indies, would contain within her boundaries almost all the products for which other nations must ransack every quarter of the globe. The advantages of such a union would be very great, and the distance is nothing as compared with the United States and Hawaii.

The Unlimited Market for Canadian Bacon

Conclusive evidence of the value of Canadian bacon on the English market and a fact which the country will be interested in, is that while shipments of bacon from other countries may be put into storage from time to time because of lack of demand, yet not one pound of Canadian bacon goes into storage in England. It is snapped up for immediate consumption as fast as it arrives. Beside, for every case of Canadian bacon sold, the buyer has to take a few cases of other brands. The popularity of Canadian bacon makes it possible to distribute with it grades which are not so popular to fill orders. High prices for grain feeds and the uncertain market conditions of the past autumn seriously curtailed hog production in Canada. But the prospects for the future are so good that the preservation of our breeding stocks is a vital national concern which should engage the attention of all classes. If there is one thing which should convince the Canadian farmer that our bacon has a place by itself on the British market it is that the price being paid in Canada for hogs is considerably in excess of what the American farmer is getting. Previous to the war, Canadian bacon found its way into certain parts of England only. To-day, wherever you go, you find the consuming public familiar with Canadian bacon and asking for it. The name of "Canada" is the finest introduction to European markets to-day.

NO USE FOR IT

The Prodigal—"I don't see the sense in the wife being so anxious to buy a kimono. Why, she couldn't play the bloomin' instrument if she'd got it."—Bilgity.

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£100 FOR A SPOON

Silver is now just about double the price it was in 1914, and a great number of those people who did not make fortunes during the war are taking the opportunity to sell all sorts of silver ornaments, things rather more pretty than useful, to be melted down.

These consist chiefly of candle-sticks, inkstands, photograph frames and the like, but there are also silver forks, spoons, sugar basins and other table plate.

If these are modern, well and good. They are not worth more than their weight in silver. But it is well to warn intending vendors not to rashly dispose of old silver. Old silver is very valuable, being worth far more than the five-and-sixpence an ounce which is the bullion price.

Only the other day a Queen Anne milk jug was sold for 125 shillings an ounce. It came from an old farmhouse, and its original owners had no idea of its real worth.

Those perfectly plain silver spoons with a large flat bowl are known to experts as Puritan spoons, and are worth their weight in gold.

A dealer recently secured a man £50 for a worn old silver sugar basin the family were using. It was really a seventeenth century porringer, and was worth at least £80.

Apostle spoons are treasured by collectors. Each has a figure of one of the Apostles, with, his emblem. St. Peter, for instance, holds his key. In olden days they were given as christening gifts. Single specimens of old have brought as much as £30, while £100 was paid for a sixteenth-century Apostle spoon.

The age of silver can be accurately told by its hall mark. Any encyclopaedia will give information on this subject.—Pearson's Weekly.

HUBBARD EPIGRAMS

Silence is better than wordy refutation.

From our mistakes alone we learn our faults.

A big man should never be cheapened by a defense.

There is a God who looks after liars—we mouth it.

Disease can be inherited, a fact seldom true of genius.

The tone of voice not the word spoken is the index of the soul.

Men who retire from active life seldom remain on the shelf.

Before Fate World believes in no we must believe in ourselves.

There are those who, like racing horses, are bred for speed rather than endurance.

RIGHT!

The teacher was giving the class a natural-history lecture on Australia. "There is one animal," she said, "none of you have mentioned. It does not walk like other animals, but takes funny little skips. What is it?"

And the class yelled with one voice: "Charlie Chaplin."—London Tit-Bits.

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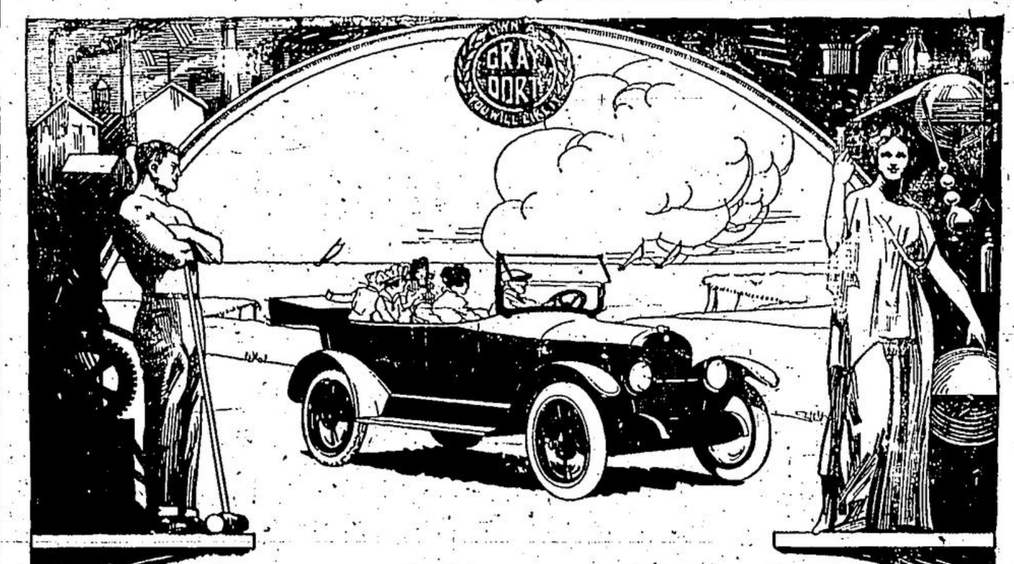

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As in the motor, so it is throughout the chassis. A cellular-type radiator and extra big water jackets for cooling. *A heavy, safe steering gear which is unusually easy on the driver. Frame heavier and sturdier than the light car standard. Rear axle specially strong and fine—and built right under our supervision here in Chatham. The long springs are built here, too. *The gas tank is big and is placed in the rear for convenience and appearance. *The emergency brake is on a lever, as in big cars—and the brake lining is *Thermoid*.

Convenience has not been sacrificed to sturdiness in the Gray-Dort. *The side-curtains open with the doors as in cars costing $2000 and up, and they fit smoothly. *The tonneau has very much more legroom. *A shorter, smarter cowl does the same for the driving compartment. The gears can be shifted with the pressure of two fingers. The brakes are positive in action. To drive a Gray-Dort is real pleasure.

Clothed in Beauty

Completing this high-grade chassis is a body wonderfully good-looking. The smooth lines do not force themselves upon your attention. They are not extreme. But always you are aware of their supreme good-looks. And Gray-Dort design is the type which remains in favor for many years.

And then the wonderful Gray-Dort finish! We have spent 60 years developing this finish for vehicles. It is applied as only master craftsmen can finish a job. It is lasting and lustrous. It is one of the outstanding features of the Gray-Dort.

*You will notice, too, the rather high hood with its many long, narrow, louvres. *The smart top, hand-tailored in our own shops. The French pleated upholstery. The full sweep of the heavy gauge fenders.

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