The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1920

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H. P. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.

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EDITORIAL

The people of Georgetown are evidently endeavoring to "square" themselves with Premier Drury, after giving his opponent a majority of 222. The Herald says the Chamber of Commerce will tender the Premier a banquet in the near future, and Esquesing United Farmers will co-operate with them.

Premier Lloyd George evidently enjoys the confidence of the British people, if the vote on the Irish Home Rule bill in the House of Commons is any index. His frank admission that Ireland for a republic, if given a chance, ought to strengthen his position rather than otherwise. The bill was carried by an overwhelming majority.

Daylight saving has lost its popularity. Sir George Foster, replying to J. E. Armstrong in the House of Commons Friday afternoon, said the Government had no daylight saving bill under contemplation at the present time. Who wants this elusive scheme? The Government does not want it. The farmers are opposed to it. The railways are fighting shy of it. Who wants it anyway?

A deputation waited on the Ontario Government the other day asking for a number of changes in the Municipal Act. The principal requests made were that police court fines go to the municipalities instead of to the Province, and that municipalities be given a measure of local option in the holding of municipal elections. The suggestion with reference to elections was that the provision be made for a longer period than one week between nominations and elections and that they be permitted to be held within a period from December 1 to January 10. It is difficult to determine what advantage a longer period for a municipal contest would bring.

Acton's Waterworks System Coming

Matters appear now to have taken a definite and aggressive action so far as waterworks for Acton is concerned. A Waterworks Committee, with an active business man as chairman, was appointed at last meeting of the Council. Within three days Chairman Arnold had called his committee together to consult with the engineer. Plans for the necessary work; contracts for materials required; and other matters were discussed, and steps taken to ensure prompt and satisfactory progress with this important municipal utility. In this and other corporation enterprizes the ratepayers desire intelligent businesslike action, and appreciate such action when it is being taken.

Careless Motor Driving is Criminal

The ruthless fatal injury inflicted by a law-breaking motorist in Toronto on Friday evening last, to one of the most prominent and useful citizens, is a crime which should be followed with severest penalty to the perpetrator. The death of Mr. C. A. B. Brown, president of Toronto Exhibition and for years an active member of the Board of Education, was caused by the deliberate breaking of the law by an unknown automobile driver. The casualty was disastrous, but the rushing off of the cowardly driver was despicable. There ought to be no let-up in police effort to trace and identify the individual responsible for the death of this esteemed victim. The tragic experience of this case must impress upon all those who operate cars the imperative need for greater care and caution, and of the absolute necessity of strictly obeying the law governing traffic. There is far too much tendency to take chances—and those who take chances take them with human lives.

Encouraging the Athletic Activities

At the last meeting of the Council a grant was made in response to the petition of a delegation of citizens to encourage the baseball activities of the town for the season. This was worthy, for our young people are all the better for indulging in the healthy sports, when they are properly conducted. A precedent has been established, however, by the making of this grant by the Council, which may be found somewhat troublesome. The football enthusiasts have been organized and are affiliated with outside clubs, and will naturally want the park to be put into first-class condition for their scheduled games. They will in all probability wait upon the Council for a grant at its next meeting for the improvement of their section of the park. For years tennis courts have been maintained in the park and there is no good reason now why the players of that popular game should not ask for a public grant to repair their courts in the west end division of the park. Then, as we have scores of English ratepayers and Canadians too, who enjoy a game of cricket above any other activity during leisure hours, they may with confidence approach the Council with a petition that a grant be given toward the laying of the very necessary bowling crease. Acton also has a considerable number of lawn bowlers, who enjoy greatly this gentleman's game who feel that the $4.00 fee for bowling green and club privileges, of the established clubs, added to the somewhat expensive equipment, renders the game prohibitive for them. If, however, the Council would provide suitable greens in the park, as they are doing in Toronto, they could enjoy their much-loved sport without so much expense. It isn't likely there'll be any lacrosse club here this season, and of course as the horse-racing has been cut off the Fall Fair programme, there'll be no extra expense for preparing the half-mile track, so these items will be non ext. But what about the people who pay taxes who indulge in none of these popular pastimes? Where do they come in for a grant?

The Price of Flour

It looks after all as if the increase in the price of flour which was feared may not materialize just now after all. Leading flour men do not expect that the price of flour will go up, even though the Grain Board has lifted the regulations fixing the price. They state there is enough flour in the country at present to prevent an increase in price. According to opinions expressed they are far from satisfied with the Grain Board's action. They wish a chance to export their flour, and until they get it they do not think that the flour condition will change. In all conscience the price of flour is surely high enough. It is too late now to try to beat out war prices.

The Farmer and His Hired Man

There is ample reason for sympathetic interest in the farmers' difficulties in the matter of securing much-needed help on the farms these days. Farmers are said to be willing to pay $50 a month, with board for hired help. The trouble is to find the man to hire. When he's found and realizes the farmer will pay $50 he asks $60 and stipulates for an eight or nine hour day, like the town and city fellow has. The average farmer is not hard on his man, and the rush of work and longer hours lasts only through the busy season. It is little wonder farmers feel annoyed at the constant cry for greater production under existing conditions. Who can reasonably blame them? Many will be obliged to cultivate less and allow portions of the farm to lie dormant.

Canada's Home Rule for Ireland

The success of Home Rule in Canada no doubt had much to do with the appointment of Sir Hamar Greenwood, a native born Canadian, as the Chief Secretary for Ireland at this important epoch in the history of that great but misguided country. After accepting the position Mr. Greenwood said publicly: "I am a Canadian Home Ruler, I was born in a Home Rule country. My appointment is a sign—and was intended to be a sign—of the British Government's earnest desire to settle the Irish question along Home Rule lines once and for all." It is believed that Sir Hamar Greenwood did not accept this most difficult of all posts at this most difficult of all times, without having something in view that gave promise of success. It is probable that he has in view the giving to Ireland of Dominion status as advocated by Sir Horace Punkett and recently endorsed by Mr. Asquith.

Disloyal, Insulting Misrepresentation

When a public educationist misrepresents his country and advises intending emigrants not to settle in it, it is high time the authorities of the country treated him in the manner prescribed by law for such rebels. Professor Stephen Leacock, of Montreal, writes to the London Times a letter, the substance of which he dare not utter before a public audience in Canada. Canadians would consider it an insult and promptly treat him as he richly deserved. In his letter to the Times, this whiskey-defending professor says that prohibition as it exists in eight of the nine Provinces of Canada is an "appalling disaster," that it is financed by "feeble-minded philanthropy" and inspired by "brutal and intolerant fanaticism," and that "the vast majority of the decent people and all the gentlemen" are opposed to it. The Globe says, "This language throws doubt on Professor Leacock's competence to speak for the 'gentlemen' of Canada." His disloyalty is very manifest when he says in this letter: "The most serious warning is needed for decent British people of any class who think of migrating to the United States and to the dry Provinces of Canada. They will reap nothing but bitter regret." Is this the advice of a patriotic Canadian? The letter throughout is suspiciously on a par with the highly-paid whiskey orators who years ago appeared on the public platforms throughout Canada, upholding liquor and prophesying the dire results and financial ruin which would overtake the country if the barrooms were closed and the sale of intoxicating liquor prohibited.

Acton Citizens' Memorial

As has been the experience in many other municipalities nothing practical has yet materialized in Acton in the matter of a memorial to commemorate the brave deeds of our soldier sons in the late war. It is true a Memorial Committee was appointed a year or more ago, with specific instructions from a public meeting of citizens to proceed with a general canvass for money to raise a certain objective, and to expend this in the erection of a memorial. This committee comprised twenty leading citizens, ladies and gentlemen, fairly representative of the community. The criticism was freely made, after their appointment, that the committee was not large enough. A subsequent public meeting was held and fifteen additional members were added. With this strong organization of thirty-five citizens it was felt that the object desired would promptly be attained. The result, however, was disappointing. A few poorly attended meetings were held. Canvassers were appointed; but no general canvass was ever attempted. Finally, a month ago, a number of the members of the Committee met, decided, owing to lack of interest on the part of the members, to disband and hand their commission back to the Council. The Council thereupon appointed a committee to arrange for a public meeting of citizens. That committee has called the meeting for to-morrow evening. If the citizens of Acton have a sustained interest in commemorating the memory of the brave men who defended us during the war there should be a largely attended meeting. If there is not a large and enthusiastic gathering the conclusion will be manifest. It is said that popular interest in the heroism and victories of soldiers generally vanishes within two years of the consummation of the heroic historical events. The two years have not yet elapsed in this case. Let Acton give practical manifestation that her citizens are not to be classed with the average community which forgets her soldiers' brave deeds. The public meeting will assuredly not make the second mistake of appointing a large committee, as many other towns have done. A committee of, say five, active, energetic, enthusiastic men and women, with specific instructions and power to inaugurate and complete such enterprise as may be decided upon, and with a public pledge of loyal support—moral and financial—should result in the erection of a memorial in Acton which will be generally satisfactory; which will fittingly commemorate our soldier sons, and which the community will always regard with pride.

FIELD CROP EXPERIMENTS

The members of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union are pleased to state that for 1920 they are prepared to distribute into the various localities throughout Ontario material of high quality for co-operative experiments with grains, fodder crops, roots, alfalfa, sweet clover and fertilizers, as follows:

Grain Crops

1—Testing two varieties of oats, 2 plots.
2—Testing O. A. C. No. 21 Barley and Emmer, 2 plots.
3.—Testing two varieties of Hulless Barley, 2 plots.
4.—Testing two varieties of Spring Wheat, 2 plots.
5.—Testing two varieties of Buckwheat, 2 plots.
6.—Testing three varieties of Field Peas, 3 plots.
7.—Testing two varieties of Spring Rye, 2 plots.
8.—Testing three varieties of Soy, Soja or Japanese Beans, 3 plots.
9.—Testing eight varieties of Flint and Dent Husking Corn, 8 plots.

Root Crops

10.—Testing three varieties of Mangels, 3 plots.
11.—Testing two varieties of Sugar Mangels, 2 plots.
12.—Testing three varieties of Swedish Turnips, 3 plots.
13.—Testing 3 varieties of Fall Turnips, 2 plots.
14.—Testing two varieties of Carrots, 2 plots.

Forage, Fodder, Silage and Hay Crops

15.—Testing the planting of corn at six distances in the row, 6 plots.
16.—Testing Hudson Grass and two varieties of Millet, 3 plots.
17.—Testing two varieties of Sorghum, 2 plots.
18.—Testing Grass Peas and two varieties of Vetches, 3 plots.
19.—Testing Rape, Kale and Field Cabbage, 3 plots.
20.—Testing two varieties of Sweet Clover, 2 plots.
21.—Testing two varieties of Alfalfa, 2 plots.
22.—Testing unhulled, hulled and scarified Sweet Clover, 3 plots.

Culinary Crops

23.—Testing three varieties of Field Beans, 3 plots.
24.—Testing dates of planting Sweet Corn for table use, 3 plots.

Fertilizer Experiments

25a.—Testing low and high grade fertilizers and manure with Oats and Red Clover, 4 plots.
25b.—Testing low and high grade Fertilizers and Manure with Oats and Sweet Clover, 4 plots.
26a.—Testing low and high grade Fertilizers, and Manure with Spring Wheat and Red Clover, 4 plots.
26b.—Testing low and high grade Fertilizers and Manure with Spring Wheat and Sweet Clover, 4 plots.

Miscellaneous Experiments

29.—Testing three grain Mixtures for Grain production, 3 plots.
30.—Testing three grain mixtures for Fodder production, 3 plots.

Any person in Ontario who grows field crops may apply for any ONE of the experiments for 1920. Each applicant should make a second choice as the material for the first choice might be exhausted before the application is received. The material will be forwarded in the order in which the applications are received while the supply lasts. No charge is made for the experimental material, and the produce becomes the property of the experimenter. A report is requested after harvest. Each person applying should carefully write his Name, Address and County.—C. A. Zavitz, Director, Ontario Agricultural College.

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The obliging post office official to whom I was so lately complaining about a "delayed in transit" letter, the non-receipt of which had caused me inconvenience and monetary loss, thus disclaimed all responsibility on the part of the post office.

I asked him to explain. As far as I could see, it mattered little how or where the stamps were attached to the envelope, so long as the correct amount of postage was paid. But he very quickly "put me wise."

The bulk of letters mailed are passed through an automatic "stamp cancelling" machine, after which they are passed on to the sorters, who invariably mail a percentage which have not had the stamps cancelled, owing to the latter being wrongly "placed."

The machine only catches those which have been placed on the top right-hand corner. "Misses" are put aside to be stamped "by hand" later on. In the meantime, out goes the mail without them.

THE MUSIC LESSON

The sunshine came a-streakin'
Across 'n leafless trees,
Jest what it was a-seekin'
Was difficult to see.
A little bird came flyin';
It started in a-tryin'
To sing an April song.

I saw the bird observin'
The shadows on the ground
That the branches, straight or curvin'
Was scatterin' around.
The sunshine as it glinted
Through the tree top seemed to bring
Some music, special printed,
For that little bird to sing.

—Philander Johnson.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

Charitable Lady (collecting for sale of work)—"Can you any particular use for your old clothes?"
Citizen—"Yes; I'm wearing them."

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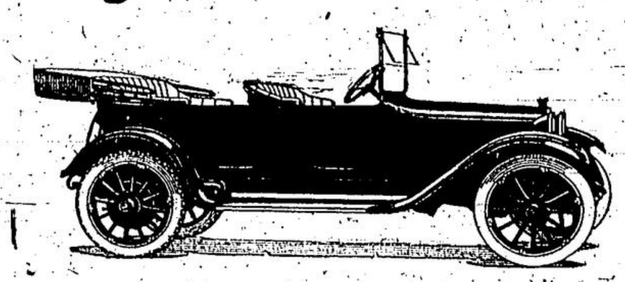
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