The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1920

THE WILL

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H. P. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.

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EDITORIAL

The United States will decline the mandate for Armenia on the ground that she is too far from the scene. How much nearer to Armenia is Canada?—Mail and Empire.

Further evidence of the small need of increasing flour prices is the report of two big milling concerns which have recently paid a quarterly divident of 1½ to 3 per cent. on their stock.—Farmers' Sun.

The Committee of Five has decided that the form of Acton's Memorial shall be a monument and that it shall be located in our Public Park. Let us all loyally support the movement with financial aid and moral commendation.

Monday, May 3, has been set apart as Memorial Fund Day for Acton. Every citizen of the community who really desires to honor the memory of our soldier heroes will be ready with their contributions when called upon that day.

The post office department at Ottawa seeks to secure greater revenue by increasing the postal rate on newspapers by 400 per cent. This would mean financial ruin to many papers. Why not eliminate the franking privilege to members of parliament, now so great a burden to the country, and give the newspapers a fair show?—Kingston Whig.

The bill introduced by the Attorney-General to end the moratorium on July 1 gives ample notice to all mortgagors. The two and a half months' notice to mortgagors now protected by the Act against foreclosure is ample, and the bill is not likely to be opposed in any quarter. The moratorium was a war measure and is not now necessary.

Many public school examinations are unnecessary and even harmful, is the opinion of Dean Coleman, of Queen's University. There will be many to agree with him and others go further. The system of university examinations is more harmful than that of the public school in some respects. Results should depend more on the term work, and much less on the test at the end of a school year.

The monthly bank statement for last month issued by the finance department, last week, shows a small increase in the bank note circulation over the previous month, with a large increase in deposits in the central gold reserve. Saving deposits increased during the month by approximately ten million dollars. Some of the people of Canada evidently have a healthy desire to save their surplus cash.

The burden of proving that a Federal referendum on the question of forbidding the importation of intoxicating liquor is the best method of improving the operations of the Ontario Temperance Act almost necessarily fell upon Hon. Mr. Raney, the Attorney-General. Even his severest critic must admit that Mr. Raney carried out his task with distinct success. The issue, in the House, more than ever, is one between the "wets" and the "drys."—Star.

Arguments which satisfactorily justify the decision of the Government not to make the referendum resolution a Government measure have been exceedingly scarce. The strongest argument advanced by Premier Drury during the debate for not assuming it as a Government measure, was that nothing should be done that would make the vote by the people on the question of the importation of liquor a party matter.

M. M. MacBride, mayor of Brantford, and one of the leading Labor members of the Legislature, in the debate on the Referendum bill, took high ground for the labor interests. Labor, he said, had made more real progress for itself and the country since strong drink was taken away than it had before. The Labor members knew, as everybody else knew, that liquor had been a curse to the country. He was prepared to go the limit under Provincial power to stop the liquor traffic.

Arbor Day and Its Benefits

Arbor Day has become a recognized and fixed event in the calendar of nearly every province and state in North America, and its value is appreciated in many other parts of the world. The chief places of observance is in the public schools, in which there are often appropriate exercises as well as the work of planting trees and shrubs and flowers. Different days are fixed for the celebration of the day, owing to the difference of climatic conditions. In this province the first Friday of May has for years been recognized as Arbor Day. The influence of the day has been attended with practical results in Acton. Nearly all the fine maples which line our streets were planted on Arbor Days. When the late W. H. Storey was Reeve the Council frequently arranged to have a large supply of maples provided at a central point for the convenience of citizens in planting trees on Arbor Day. There is a by-law on the municipal statute books granting the sum of fifty cents for each tree planted by citizens, which have lived for three seasons from date of planting. Many trees have been planted but very few citizens have claimed the reward offered by the Council. People generally consider the beautiful sugar maples growing on the streets adjacent to their property as giving an intrinsic value far in excess of the cost of time and trouble of planting. It is hoped that the significance of Arbor Day will this year appeal to all lovers of nature, and that through its uplifting influence the number of those who delight in the "brotherhood of venerable trees" will be considerably increased.

Public Memorials in Canadian Towns

What should constitute a civil memorial to the men who fought in the great war and to those who died for British and Canadian ideals? We often hear the expression that heroes need no memorials of brass or marble, that their deeds will live in history. But a tangible memorial is advisable. Throughout Europe are statues and arches commemorating the valor of national heroes of many generations, and these memorials are truly an inspiration to all who gaze upon them. And Canada needs more of these public memorials, which should serve as an inspiration to the young as much as does our country's flag.

Canada's High Place in the Old Land

Canada is evidently growing in popularity in Great Britain and Europe and has won a prestige which means much to the future of the country. Harry N. Moore, London correspondent of the Toronto Star, says: "While since the peace conference the United States has been steadily losing ground in European opinion, Canada, by her willingness to bear her full share in the problems of world reconstruction as shown by her advancing credits to impoverished European states, stands high throughout the continent. American travellers returning from Europe speak enviously of the reputation borne by Canada as compared with the United States."

Monday, May 3, Soldiers' Memorial Day

The revival of the interest in the Acton Soldiers' Memorial is gratifying to this community. Dr. Gray, the convenor of the Committee of Five, in accepting office, said "We will endeavor to set the heather on fire at once." This characteristic Scottish term means much when acted upon, and Dr. Gray and his Committee have promptly set to work. A committee of interested citizens were appointed to make a thorough canvass for funds. $2,500 is the objective fixed. The memorial will take the permanent form of a monument. This Committee, at a meeting last Thursday evening decided to set apart Monday, May 3, as Memorial Day for Acton, when an effort will be made to call upon every citizen for his contribution to this worthy object. The committee will appreciate the help very much if all citizens are ready with their subscriptions on this Special Memorial Day—Monday, May 3.

"Carry on" For Democracy and Freedom

In a very trite and interesting article on the topic "Carry On," in the current months issue of The Veteran, the editor says: "This war was not fought for empire, but for civilization; not for law but for the rights of man. It was a battle between autocracy and democracy, between might and right, between bondage and freedom. The result in the abstract has been attained. It now remains to apply these principles consecrated by the lives of Canadians as a living force in Canada. It is our duty to establish the principles of democracy, of freedom, of right, of duty, of sacrifice, in all the varied spheres of Canadian life: in politics, in society, in education, in the church, in business, in industry. Matters are not as they should be, and it behooves us to carry on the fight and to hold up to this country the ideals of unity and co-operation. The real heroes of war should also be the real heroes of peace."

How Lower Prices Will Come

A Toronto banker recently in discussing the business and industrial situation in Canada stated that he was optimistic about the ultimate outcome of Canadian conditions but a little anxious over what must take place before normal conditions return. In part of his statement he sounded a word of warning as to the results which might occur, if efforts to increase production were not made to the extent that they should be. The words referred to are as follows: "My one fear is that production is not what it should be, because the people of this country have not yet got back to solid work. If this slackened effort continues there will be much less disposition by manufacturers to keep on producing and instead of overproduction bringing dull times and lower prices, I think we will have under-production leading to shutdowns, followed by greater willingness to work and after that better work and then lower prices."

Provision for Taxes on Land Only

The Drury Government will give local option in taxation to Ontario. The necessary measure was introduced in the Legislature on Friday by the Prime Minister and given first reading. The provisions of the bill, as explained to the House by Mr. Drury, show that the Government is prepared to have municipalities go "the limit" in removing taxes on improvements, income and business, if the ratepayers so decide, but it will provide safeguards by allowing reductions only on a graded scale. The initiative is placed in the hands of the ratepayers themselves. If the ten per cent. of those who voted at the previous municipal election, petition for a vote on the question, it must be submitted to the people, and if approved by a majority of those voting, the council must pass the by-law demanded. The Act permits a reduction of ten per cent., but not more than 25 per cent. the first year, and similar amounts each succeeding year until the whole of the assessed value on the improvement, income or business is exempt—in other words, until the whole of the municipal tax burden is upon the land.

Amending of Acton's Peace and Safety By-laws

For some time it has been very evident to those whose duty it is to administer municipal and statutory law, that it would be of great advantage to the municipality if the by-laws for the preservation of the public peace and safety were revised. A number of the by-laws which appear in the last list published are now obsolete. Others require to be amended to be consistent with present day conditions, and new by-laws which the statute empowers the municipal authorities to enact, should be added to those now in use. The advantage is obvious. The work of constables and magistrates would be simplified; some penalties in cases of convictions which are now required to be forwarded to the Crown Attorney or the Attorney-General, would be payable into the municipal treasury, and there would be additional incentives toward law enforcement. The Council might with advantage appoint a committee, very properly composed of the Municipal Solicitor and the acting magistrates of the municipality, to make such revision and additions. The work of such a committee would of course be submitted to the Council when completed for ratification by that body.

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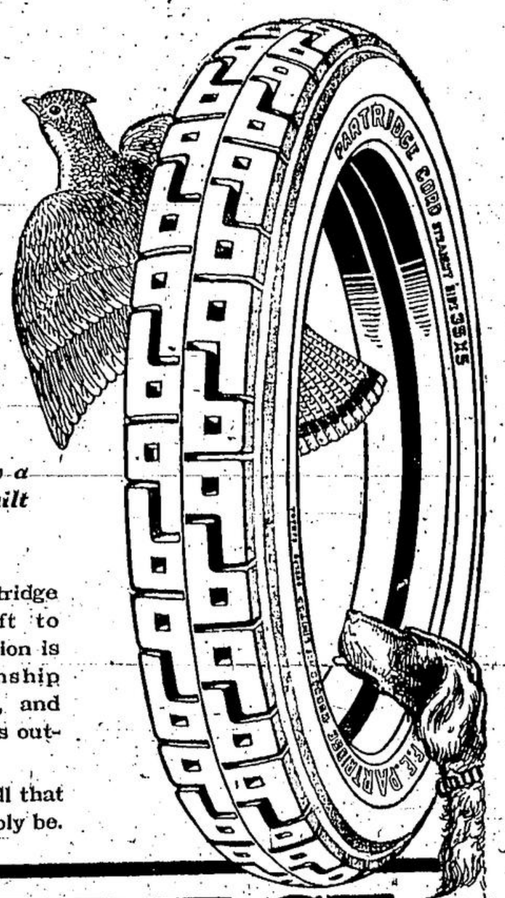

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