The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

Members of parliament who draw $4000 for sessional indemnity will have a hard time convincing the constituents that they are making much sacrifice in serving at Ottawa.—Barrie Examiner.

There is not in the Dominion of Canada to-day a statesman whose name will stand higher in public appreciation when the history of the past six years comes to be written, than that of N. W. Rowell.—Guelph Mercury.

The town of Newmarket expects to reduce the tax rate this year from 37 to 30 mills. Acton ratepayers will be happy if Acton Council is able to learn the secret of accomplishing a similar reduction for this town.

An American orator in an eloquent speech declared the other day that there is but one remedy for the high prices and trying conditions that exist, and that remedy is more work and less indulgence in idle pleasure.

The United States in some quarters, evidently sees something to emulate in Ontario's Farmer-Labor Government, and is imitating the combination. A Farmer-Labor party has been formed. It cannot hope for anything like the success which has characterized our coalition so far. The States have too much politics to the square mile to permit it.

Streetsville evidently has a class of citizens who are patriotic to their town and have faith in its future. The $15,000 good roads debentures issued by the municipality have all been disposed of to Streetsville people. Another lot of debentures will be offered for sale later, to raise money to pay for the extra width of pavement and curbing in the business section.

If the story told upon oath in police court here last Thursday, by a man convicted and fined $200 and costs for having in his possession a bottle of whiskey which he purchased in Guelph for $5.00, is true to fact, matters must be running at loose ends in that city, so far as enforcement of the liquor law is concerned. There is evidently good reason for investigation by the Inspector and officers of the law.

The Farmers' Sun makes this very sane observation: "The farm family, because of its comparative remoteness from the turmoil and distractions of the city, has wonderful opportunities to make a real home. Among these opportunities is that of beautifying the farmstead so that it may be more attractive to the occupants. This will tend to make both young and old more contented, will add materially to the enjoyment of those who pass by, and incidentally to the selling value of the farm."

Two of our most esteemed contemporaries had important birthdays last week—the Renfrew Mercury and the Acton Free Press. The former entered upon its 50th year, 48 of which were conducted by the Smallfields, father and son. Their successor, Mr. Davies, is keeping up the reputation of the journal as one of the best weeklies in the Province. The Acton Free Press, under the guidance of Mr. H. P. Moore, completed its 45th year and commands the enviable position of being the most artistic weekly in the Dominion. Its editorial columns and "The Clock Tower" make it a local favorite.—Newmarket Era.

Good Roads in More Than Name

According to a statement made by W. A. MacLean, Deputy Minister of Highways for the Province, 3,000 men will be employed on the good roads programme within the next three months. Repairs will be carried on this fall together with some construction work. On the whole, however, the activities will largely be confined to keeping the roads in repair. If this is accomplished some of the highways designated good roads will be such in more than name.

Halton's Towns Debenture Debt

According to the government report, the following are the debenture debts, municipal and school, of the five towns of the County of Halton: Acton, $63,655; Georgetown $77,117; Burlington, $361,309; Milton, $88,760; Oakville, $418,779. This shows Acton's debenture debt to be considerably lower than the lowest of the other towns of the county. We'll be able, however, to advance the above aggregate by a very considerable sum when the new waterworks debentures are floated.

Making Farm Conditions Acceptable

Hon. Manning Doherty, Minister of Agriculture, is always ready to magnify the importance of the farm and agricultural production. This is right, and the attitude he takes has many sane and encouraging suggestions. In an address at Guelph the other day he said: "I make the statement without fear of contradiction that food production is the greatest problem of the world to-day. Soil fertility is fundamental to food production. It is of greatest importance, since it lies at the foundation of success in all branches of agriculture. It will be the duty of the Department of Agriculture to see that our production per acre is increased in every possible way. With this duty will be coupled the bringing-in of more people to increase the rural population, and the adjustment of present farm conditions in Canada so as to make them sufficiently acceptable to retain the Ontario boy on the farm."

Town and Country Getting Together

Speaking at Collingwood, Hon. Peter Smith denied the charge that enmity existed between the urban and rural populations, and said it was purely imaginary. To get together was the spirit of the times, and the recent session of the Provincial Legislature, in which the Government and the Opposition had co-operated, was conducted to this end, with the result that much good legislation had been enacted.—Farmers' Sun.

Let Every Citizen "Keep House"

The Council, the municipal officers and numbers of our merchants and citizens are trying to make Acton the neatest, cleanest, most attractive town in Ontario. Won't you all help? Make a resolution that you will hereafter cease that little careless habit of dropping the envelopes off your letters, the wrappers off your papers, the empty candy and fruit bags, and those cigarette wrappers on the streets. Pick up occasionally what the other fellow drops, and he'll begin to feel mean and do it himself or not drop it.

New Method with Liquor Prescriptions

Medical men in the province will no longer be able, as heretofore, to obtain liquor prescription blanks from any Government dispensary, but will have to apply for same at the head office in Toronto. This procedure is in line with the policy of strict checking which the authorities have determined on with regard to the physicians who do a suspicious trade in orders for intoxicants. When the doctor sends to Toronto for his book of blanks he signs a receipt contained in the front of the book and returns it as an acknowledgment of the book. It is stated that careful check is to be kept of all prescriptions handed into dispensaries, and in this way it is expected that not only will fraud be prevented, but a uniform record of transaction kept, and forgeries, which are declared to have been prevalent in the past, will be done away with.

Vote of Canada Temperance Act October 25

The Canada Temperance Act will be voted upon on October 25 in the Yukon Territory and the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia, and possibly one or two other provinces. The vote will be on the question, whether provincial-wide prohibition shall be adopted and thus prohibit the importation or conveying of liquor from other countries or other provinces into the provinces adopting the act. It will be a definite "yes" or "no" and one question only. Ontario will not have the benefit of the experience of testing the new Franchise Act, for the last clause definitely provides that the lists used in the provincial general elections in the month of October, 1919, shall be the lists used for any Canada Temperance Act vote in Ontario this year, and therefore no person not on that list will be entitled to vote on the coming referendum.

Farmers and Manufacturers Should Co-operate

Farmers outside of Canada found a profitable market in this country last year for $143,500,000 worth of products. Many of these imports are offset by our exports of the same class. That is, Canadian manufacturers import much of their raw material from abroad and Canadian farmers have to export the results of their work to be raw material in other countries. The needless "criss-crossing" of products and the expense of their transportation might be largely eliminated were Canadian manufacturers and Candian farmers to be more closely linked together. Manufacturers might utilize more what Canadian farms, under the climatic conditions, can best produce; farmers might more definitely aim to produce that for which manufacturers can best find a market. A considerable part of the products given above could have been produced in the Dominion and profitably manufactured for Canadian consumers, if industry and farming had been more closely related during the last twenty years.

An Important Provincial Commission

The Attorney-General has appointed a Commission, with W. D. Gregory, of Halton, as Chairman, for the placing of outside civil service on a business-like footing. The commission's powers are outlined as follows: "To inquire, consider and report upon the best mode of selecting, appointing and remunerating sheriffs, local masters, deputy clerks of the crown, local registrars of the supreme court, court registrars, crown attorneys, clerks of the peace, county court clerks, registrars of deeds, masters of titles, police magistrates, justices of the peace, issuers of marriage licenses, jailers and turnkeys, and any deputies and officers acting under them, or any of them, and the advisability of consolidating any such offices, and as to what qualifications should be required of appointees, the remuneration such officials should receive, and the source from which it should be derived, and how the surplus revenues, if any, from such offices should be applied, and whether or not the public service superannuation act should apply to such officials in whole or in part."

Raising the Standard of Ministers' Salaries

A strong committee has been appointed within the Methodist Church to deal with the question of raising the standard of ministers' salaries. Other churches are also dealing with the question, which is one deserving of serious reflection on the part of all supporters of the Christian church. The Labor Gazette issued by the Dominion Government shows that the main items in the domestic budget have gone up just 100 per cent. since the war began, whereas the salaries of ministers, inadequate as they were in 1914, have been increased only 30 per cent. Many churches still are paying the same salaries as during the pre-war period, thus entailing great hardship on the families of the ministers. Church members never were so numerous and so prosperous as to-day and never so able to pay adequate salaries to the men who stand for the best things in the life of the community. Present conditions are largely due to thoughtlessness and it is quite possible to help toward a more active appreciation of the vital part played by the ministers in the work of nation-building. The Committee referred to is making its campaign with the object of reaching through the conferences and districts down to every individual church, to secure for the ministers the following minimum annual salaries, in addition to free parsonage, or house rent, viz: $1,500 in rural circuits; $1,800 in towns with populations of 2,000 and upwards, and $2,000 in cities.

DREAMER AND BUILDER

Hail comes the dreamer; the builder follows. The dream must always precede constructive effort—indeed, it must always precede the plan for the building.

The dreamer sees the structure whole, sees it as completed, but it is all in his own mind. It is utterly invisible to the people who cannot dream dreams. While the dreamer sees the structure complete, the man without imagination cannot see it at all; therefore he fails to appreciate the value of the dreamer's dream.

The dreamer sees what is not there; the mere worker fails to see anything at all. Because the dreamer sees the completed structure as a whole, he is frequently unable to discern the details of plan which must be worked out before the dream is realized. Hence throughout all ages the world has witnessed almost unending misunderstanding between the dreamers and the workers; yet the completed structure is an impossibility without both the dream and the work. Much of the discord in human life arises from the fact that some are not able to appreciate the value of the dream, and others are not able to understand the necessity of careful planning and patient workmanship.

The world usually stands opposed to the dream of the dreamer, the vision of the seer. Accustomed to walking in well-trodden paths, most men are reluctant to break a trail through the wilderness in order that they may ascend to the heights from which they would be able to see what, by some elevation of spirit, is already clear to the man who dreams. Consequently the world usually laughs the dreamer to scorn, and the dreamer is impatient with its scoffing. Yet in time the dream comes true, but only when the man who plans and the man who works co-operate to bring into being the reality which is in the mind of the dreamer.—Presbyterian Advance.

CAPITALIZING YOUR MISFORTUNE

A great many people are willing to capitalize their misfortunes, the unnerved man who slings your door bell and offers to sell you shoe lacings, or lead pencils, knows that even if you never wear laced shoes, and have all the pencils that you need, you will spend five or ten cents because you are sorry for him. He is relying for success not on the arm that is left, but on the one that is missing. Many an editor finds in the letter accompanying the manuscript he has received, a detailed account of the personal misfortunes of the writer. She has a sick husband to support. She has a mortgage to pay. She is depending for success not on the excellence of her work, but on her misfortunes.

A cripple who, single-handed, has won both fame and fortune declared not long ago that he had always made it a principle to refuse any business which was offered him on account of sympathy for his physical handicap. Sometimes this stand proved a little embarrassing both to himself and the people who were sorry for him, but he held to his course and now has reached a point where in spite of the fact that he has never walked a step in his life, he is more likely to be envied than to be pitied.

Do not capitalize your misfortunes. Do not try to get people to help you by making them sorry for you. By capitalizing your misfortune, you are likely to make yourself permanently an object of sympathy.

KEEP SINGING

We can sing our cares away easier than we can reason them away. The birds are the earliest to sing in the morning, the birds are more without care than anything else I know of. Singing is the last thing that robins do. When they have done their daily work, when they have flown their last flight, and picked up their last morsel of food, and cleaned their bills off a napkin of a bough, then on a top twig they sing one song of praise. I know they sleep sweeter for it. Oh, that we might sing evening and morning, and let song touch song all the way through! Oh, that we could put songs under our burden! Oh, that we could extract the sense of sorrow by song? Then sad things would not poison so much. Sing in the house; teach your children to sing. When griefs arise, sing them down. Lift the voice of praise against curse. Praise God by singing; that will lift you above trials of every sort. Attempt it.

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