The Acton Free Press

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H. P. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.

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EDITORIAL

The Ontario Government is having a special committee investigate voting systems, and proportional representation will be under review. An honest vote for every British subject, woman or man, is what Ontario wants.

Good roads will attract thousands of American tourists to Canada. Why should this "foreign invasion" not be encouraged? The better the roads the more the visitors will spend in this country. Beside that, we welcome their presence here.—Kingston Whig.

Nominees for election to township councils must in future file declaration of qualification before election, the same as in urban municipalities. Public utility or franchise by-laws may now be submitted to the electors at any time, according to new rulings given out.

The answer to pleas of sympathy for the much-talked-of MacSwiney, Lord-Mayor of Cork, Ireland, is a reference to the widows and orphans of eighty Irish policemen murdered in cold blood by the Sinn Feiners whom McSwiney represents. Why bestow sympathy on a man who has posed so persistently as a martyr when his case is really a most deliberately planned suicide?

When Colonel Denison, in Police Court last Friday, granted a remand in an Ontario Temperance Act case, he issued warning that he would not make the fine for selling liquor less than $1,000 hereafter. "I have received advice from those in authority," he declared. The man who will deliberately attempt to sell liquor under present conditions deserves the highest penalties.

The marked improvement in Canadian exchange in New York during the week has been very encouraging. On Saturday it was down to three-and-a-half per cent., our Canadian dollars being passed at 96½. Visitors from Canada across the lines will be glad when the business people over there wake up to the fact that Canada's dollar is "all wool and a yard wide," and every one of them worth one hundred cents.

The movie managers say that prohibition has caused a fifty per cent. increase in attendance at their picture houses. They will stand behind the dry campaign every time. The manager of our own Wonderland said to the Free Press several years ago: "You bet I'll vote for prohibition; I know which side my bread is buttered on. I've no use for the 'booze' anyway, and don't want any half-full patrons at my show."

The prospect for a big yield of wheat is already disturbing the prices for that important commodity. A substantial drop in the price of both old and new crop wheat is viewed as an inevitable factor to reduce the high cost of living and the forerunner of a general decline in prices. Bakers state that the prices of bread will not be affected for some time, yet it is conceded that the break in the wheat market is the beginning of a new standard of living costs.

Poor Ireland! Surely her misguided citizens, the Catholics in the south and the Protestants in the north, will finally come to realize that the wanton destruction of property in Ireland is pretty poor business. Every necessary building, public or private, that is destroyed will have to be replaced and the cost of replacement will have to be borne out of the public or private means of the people of Ireland. In the last analysis the people themselves will pay in hard cash for all property damaged or destroyed.

Keeping Money at Home

The County of Ontario has set a good example to the town of Oshawa in its decision to offer its debentures to its own citizens. The county is issuing debentures for $50,000, bearing interest at 6 per cent., and these are being advertised for sale in The Reformer and other county papers.—Oshawa Reformer.

"Honor to Whom Honor is Due"

The Free Press is in receipt of an interesting letter from one of Acton's sons now resident in another section of the province who urges that steps be taken by the pupils of the late Thomas T. Moore, who was for twenty-five years the principal of Acton Public School, to erect some form of memorial in recognition of his faithful and valuable services. It was pointed out that Mr. Moore was principal of the school here for a much longer period than any of his predecessors; that his services were equally valuable to the community as those of any other teacher. The pupils of the late Robert Little, whose principalship extended over a period of only nine years—1862 to 1871—have held two notable reunions and raised several hundred dollars to meet the cost of a handsome monument as a memorial, which now marks his grave on Monument Hill in Fairview Cemetery. It would be very fitting indeed if the pupils of the late Thomas T. Moore—many of whom now hold eminent positions and are men and women of means and influence—would provide some form of memorial; a monument in the school grounds, a tablet in the school corridors, or some other suitable gift expressive of love and respect to this worthy man of revered memory. This journal will gladly assist the Thomas T. Moore pupils to conduct such propaganda as they may deem desirable to accomplish the end suggested, and which has on several previous occasions been referred to.

Soldiers Can be Insured

The Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act passed by Parliament last session, came into force September 1. Any returned soldier who served in the naval, military, or air forces may obtain life insurance under the Act, but must be a resident or domiciled in Canada when the insurance is issued. Widows of returned soldiers, with a few restrictions, are also eligible under the Act.

Rather a High Estimate

"Whig," who writes most interesting comment on local affairs every week in the Fergus News-Record, places this estimate on Acton's journalistic representative: "The Acton Free Press is rightly considered one of the best Ontario weeklies. Its news and editorial columns are models of their kind, and a special feature is the column edited by "The Old Man of the Clock Tower" whose identity provides the town with a constant mystery. He writes reminiscences of olden days in Acton and vicinity, as well as comments on present happenings."

Great Britain Regaining Commercial Supremacy

Great Britain is well on her way to regain the leading commercial position which she held before the war, says the official monthly summary issued by the American Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber bases its opinion on the July returns received by the Board of Trade, which makes the best showing since the war. Great Britain's adverse trade balance has been reduced to eight millions, compared with thirty-four millions for June. British exchange will shortly be at par again in the United States and all other markets of the commercial world.

Another $10,000,000 of Canadian Goods

Delegates from Paris, France, are now in Canada completing arrangements for the purchase of $10,000,00 worth of food stuffs for the city of Paris. It is the purpose to purchase foodstuffs that can be sold in Paris for immediate consumption. 1,000,000 francs worth of frozen meat has been purchased and it is the intention to purchase during the next few weeks some 2,000,000 francs worth of butter, eggs and jam. The food would be sold at cost in the 186 shops owned by the City of Paris, with a view to helping out the people in the straightened circumstances in which they find themselves after the war.

Dog Tax and Sheep Protection

The act respecting dog tax and sheep protection, which comes into force on April 1, next, makes it compulsory for all owners of dogs to procure numbered tags, to be supplied by the Council, and for killing dogs without tags. The minimum penalty for not procuring a tag is $10. County Councils are authorized to pass by-laws requiring all dog tax and license fees collected after 1920 to be paid to the county treasurer and form a sheep protection fund, all claims to be paid by the county, for which purpose county valuers are to be appointed. Sheep are certainly of more value to any community than dogs and should be protected.

Citizens and Farmers Co-operating

A commendible spirit of helpfulness was manifested by a well-known Nassagaweya farmer the other day. In speaking of the plethora of fall apples now in his orchard, and which are unsaleable because of the present large crop, he said: "I do not like to see them going to waste, so I fill up a basket for people going to Acton every chance I get." This spirit of helpfulness is commendible wherever found. It's cultivation will not only materially benefit the community but will create a better feeling among citizens and farmers in their general dealings. If there was more of this spirit of good will and reciprocity Canadians would not be paying as high a price for apples at Christmas time, grown within half a dozen miles from their home, as for oranges grown two or three thousand miles away in Florida or California. Let us all endeavor to cultivate this spirit.

Better Roads for Halton

Crude oil is proving its value as a road preservative. Lately the Fergus-Guelph road from above Marden to Guelph has been treated to a coat of oil, in an endeavor to save its surface. The work was done by one of the big road oil distributors operated by the Department of Public Highways of Ontario. On Saturday we had an opportunity of judging the material value of oil on country roads. In driving from Toronto by way of Weston it was found the road was oiled from Weston to Thistletown and beyond, a distance of eight or ten miles. The roadway was well consolidated and kept intact, and naturally the oil held the dust and particles of stone. It is an excellent road. The sooner our County Council can have our county roads properly repaired and induce the Department of Public Highways to treat the surfaces with oil, the sooner will we have good roads in Halton worthy of the name we have been giving them, "Our permanent Highways." If Wellington can get this service and attention from the Department, Halton ought surely to be able to do so, with the Prime Minister of the province as our sitting member.

Paper and Pulp are Canada's Leading Industries

The paper situation in Canada is a most vital subject these days. Some interesting data has recently been published regarding the pulp and paper industry according to which exports of pulp and paper lead all the Dominion's manufacturing activities. The bulk of these products go to the United States. Some also go to Great Britain, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Cuba, Mexico, British West Indies and South America. The newspapers of the United States consume 2,000,000 tons of paper yearly of which Canada supplies one quarter approximately. The United States consumes one half of the world's production of paper, and Canada in proportion to her population is a close rival of her southern neighbor in annual consumption. Canada's pre-eminence as a paper producing country lies in the possession of thousands of acres of pulp wood forests conveniently located to water powers. She has the largest forest area of any country in the British Empire. Spruce, balsam, fir, hemlock, jack pine, tamarac, poplar and basswood are used in the manufacture of pulp. The prairie provinces, contrary to the belief of many, have immense areas of forest land. The resources of the three prairie provinces in this regard run well on to 200,000,000 cords of wood, according to official estimates.

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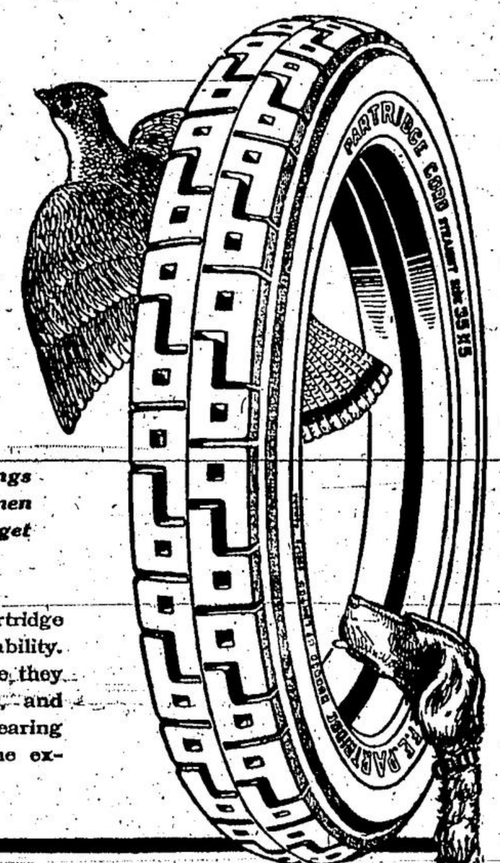

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