

The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1920
The Acton Free Press is published every Thursday morning at the Press House building, Mill Street, Acton, Ontario.

EDITORIAL

The Telegraph and the Tribune newspapers, of Welland, have amalgamated this week, with a view to economy in the cost of publication.

Tommy Church is out again as candidate for the Toronto Mayoralty. Isn't it about time Toronto was electing a real Mayor to administer its important precincts?

Premier Drury is arranging to open the session of the Legislature of 1921 in January. The farmer-members especially are anxious to get to prorogation as early in the spring as possible.

The New South Wales Assembly is proposing legislation to compel the large land owners to sell land on reasonable terms in connection with the Government's settlement scheme. This is clearly in the interests of the Dominion.

Reports from Ottawa indicate that the high cost of living is on the downward grade, and it will only be a short time before there is a slump in all lines. The average householder will offer no objection to the slump being soon and decisive, so far as the family needs are concerned.

With an enterprise which is commendable, and quite in line with the splendid growth of the town, the Ontario Reformer, published at Oshawa, has commenced to publish three issues per week. Just a year ago the Reformer adopted the twice-a-week issue. It is well abreast of the steady advancement of the growing town, and is in every respect its capable journalistic representative.

Debentures for Local Investors

The placing of debentures for local improvements on the home market, thus giving the people an opportunity for investment, has much to commend it. The security is gilt-edged. The debentures are as safe as Government bonds. In Acton's case the present water works debentures carry a higher rate of interest than Victory Bonds; the interest coupons are payable at the bank the day they are due; and debentures in denominations of \$1,000 and lesser amounts are available. The purchase by citizens of Acton debentures naturally induces a broader spirit of loyalty for the holder of a town's bonds will invariably be more anxious for the prosperity of the municipality, and use his or her influence in that direction. An investment by debenture has advantages over farm or town mortgages, inasmuch as there are no documents to be prepared, and no delay in receipt of the annual interest or of the payment of principal when it falls due.

The Two Dollar Weekly

The day of the two dollar weekly newspaper has arrived, and a large number of papers have already bowed to the inevitable and fixed the subscription price at that figure. The publishers have been hoping against hope that costs of production would commence to recede, but instead of recession there is increase in cost of all materials and stocks are harder to obtain than ever. No other industry has been harder hit by the increased cost of production than that of newspaper publishing and printing. Costs have doubled and trebled, while the revenue has only perceptibly increased. Never a more profitable occupation, newspaper publishing in late years has become precarious, and a public-spirited sense of duty has been the only incentive which has kept many a publisher from closing his doors and abandoning a profession for a trade. Few newspaper men have been tempted by the lure of gold to lay down the journalistic pen and engage in commercial pursuits although the opportunity has come to many during and since the war. Those who still remain in the printing and publishing business are now compelled by stern necessity to increase the price of subscription, and it is expected that by January 1 next, all weekly newspapers will be charging a uniform subscription price of two dollars per year, not from choice, but of necessity.

Co-Operation Might Cure It

A week or two ago tons of the finest peaches which the growers would have been glad to dispose of at a nominal price, were lying rotting in the Niagara district. For the last week, as a result of the heavy storms of Thursday and Friday last, hundreds of barrels of fall and winter apples went to the discard in a similar way in Halton and other western Ontario Counties. At the same time peaches were selling in Toronto at six for a quarter and apples at about the same price when purchased in small quantities. These conditions seem to be rather a severe criticism on our much-boasted methods of modern distribution. Of course there are quite good reasons for this state of affairs. The warm weather ripened the peaches in a hurry, and for other good reasons neither baskets nor refrigerated cars for shipping purposes were available. And in the same way the splendid apple crop of the year is dissipated. And yet there does seem to be something wrong. Particularly, we never hear of similar conditions in California where the growing and marketing of fruit is done much more extensively on a co-operative basis. One is led to wonder whether some of the transportation difficulties may not disappear under public ownership of steam and electric roads, and whether groups of farmers and growers, working together, so as to make provision for cold storage more feasible, could not obviate some of the difficulties and avoid a good deal of what seems sinful and yet apparently unavoidable waste. Here is a problem which the Drury Government might very well take up when several of the important matters now in hand are satisfactorily settled.

Imperial Conference Deferred to 1922

It is expected that the Imperial Conference will be postponed until 1922, owing to differences among the Dominions on proposals for a departmental re-arrangement in London of Dominion affairs and Crown colony administration. Canada has urged that more time should be afforded for consideration of these schemes, and this desire has prevailed. A conference of Prime Ministers, however, will be held next year.

Referendum in Four Provinces This Month

October will be an eventful month in four provinces of Canada. A test of public opinion on prohibition in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Nova Scotia will be made on the same day—October 25. Ontario should also have been in this list. The liquor interests influenced the federal government to order otherwise, however. The ballot paper in the above four provinces will be uniform and have but one question: "Shall the importation or bringing of intoxicating liquors into the province be forbidden?"

Let the Old Flag Wave

The Militia Department is evidently determined to instill the spirit of patriotism and love for the Union Jack in the minds and hearts of rising generation. Local militia regiments throughout Canada have received from the Department of Militia and Defense a direct order that, in future all regimental, badge, pipe-and-other bands of the Canadian Militia when appearing in public demonstrations, or marching in public, must be preceded by a Union Jack at least three feet wide and four feet long. It is understood that this order applies to every unit of the active militia in Canada.

Ontario Temperance Act Penalties

Instructions from the Department of the Attorney General to magistrates require, that under sections 58, 59 and 60 of the Ontario Temperance Act, that unless there is immediate payment of the fine imposed the person convicted must be imprisoned. In other words time to pay the fine shall not be given. Magistrates have no right to suspend sentence, where there is a minimum sentence fixed. Attention is also called to the Interpretation Act, Section 25. Where power is given to impose imprisonment it authorizes imprisonment with hard labor. The Department considers it detrimental to keep men for a period of idleness at the county goal.

Good Citizenship Means Service

Salutory results are sure to accrue to the boy or girl who at school and at home has had held before him the ideal of service as that which should dominate his life, and who is accustomed to perform every day tasks of service. This is the best possible training for citizenship. In too much school and home training stress has been laid upon the importance of successful acquisition rather than upon that of using the fruits of acquisition for the benefit of others. Boys and girls are learning through this means to be more thoughtful, kind and generous. They are learning also to deal directly with the problems and needs of life.

Premier Drury Hopes Radial Projects are Sound

"I hope, from the bottom of my heart, that the commission now sitting will find that the Hydro radial projects—the three of them—are sound. If they are sound they will be gone ahead with. Our responsibility is to the whole Province, and if any part of the scheme is declared to be unsound we would not be doing our duty if we guaranteed the bonds for that part with the backing of the whole Province." The Premier remarked that he felt sure that in any event the Government would not stand in the way of municipal enterprise, and after the facts had been brought out if the Government did not feel justified in supporting the whole radial scheme, there would be nothing to prevent any municipality deciding by popular vote what is would do in the matter. "Remember, the Commission of Enquiry is not intended to block or destroy. It is simply intended to bring out facts," the Premier emphasized.

Why Not Brand Shoddy?

Vendors of oleo in Canada are obliged by law to brand their packages so that no one can mistake it for butter. In that respect, some considerable care has been taken to protect our dairymen from the competition of an article that has little justification as a food product. Why not then be consistent with our shepherds and help to protect an industry that is languishing because of the senseless competition of shoddy? Shoddy is salvaged rags and worn-out clothes. The whole fabric is an imposture and as an imposture it should be so labelled on every suit of clothes that is sold. Not many consumers can tell the difference at first glance. These are victimized by the ingenious shoddy manufacturers who palm off too much so-called all-wool goods on a public that has been gulled too long. Shepherds should make it a point to press this on our Governments.—Farmers' Magazine.

"Fire Prevention Day"

A royal proclamation has appointed Saturday, October 9th, as "Fire Prevention Day," for Canada. The co-operation of every sincere and patriotic Canadian towards extending this movement of Fire Prevention to every day in the year, thus assuring the permanency of this most important work is urged. Success depends upon aggressive leadership. Every Mayor, Reeve, Councillor, Clergyman, School Teacher and Fire Chief, as well as the Presidents of our Boards of Trade, Farmers' Clubs and Women's Organizations, must of necessity be those who will lead. The need for organization for prevention is great. It is authoritatively stated that during the past decade in Canada more than 2,000 persons have lost their lives, and property valued at approximately \$200,000,000 has been destroyed by fire, and that the annual loss from this cause continues practically unabated. In addition to this waste of human life and created resources, forest fires annually destroy merchantable timber worth many millions of dollars and immature forest growth of incalculable potential value thus adversely affecting one of Canada's most important branches of industry, depleting our natural heritage of forest wealth, and impoverishing, if not entirely destroying, the future productivity of large forest areas. Fire prevention is a most important matter. It interests every citizen of our country.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "GO" AND "COME"

"If you want business done," says the proverb, "go to the man." If you don't want it done, send some one else. An Indian gentleman had a friend who was, according to the Indian custom, a very rich man. He had a fine house and a large family. He was a very good man, and he was a very good father. He was a very good man, and he was a very good father. He was a very good man, and he was a very good father.

A LONG-DISTANCE LAYER

As a rule, hens lay two or three eggs and then take a day. Some good hens lay five and six, seven eggs and not take a day, but a record is long-distance laying without a mislay here, as far as we know, been established by the Experimental Farms, poultry Division at their Station, N. 4, station, where a Barred Plymouth Rock will lay more before three take a day and we have known individual pullets lay 104 eggs in 104 days. This layer, which was a very old hen, laid her first egg on the 13th of February, and laid a second egg on the 14th of February, and so on, every day in April, and every day in May up to the 27th when she took an occasional day off until in June 20 when she became broody. When she went broody her total record was 136 eggs in 147 days.—P. C. Duff, Dominion Poultry Inspector, in Experimental Farms Note.

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