

The Acton Free Press

Member Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1929

THE ACTON FREE PRESS is published every Thursday morning at the Free Press Building, 2111 Street, Acton, Ontario. The subscription price is \$2.00 per year in advance. Postage is charged additional to the United States. The date to which subscriptions are paid is indicated on the address label.

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H. P. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.

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EDITORIAL

Acton should be rather well fortified if a few more German guns come from Ottawa. We have three now. They are fine for quantity, but rather indifferent as to quality, compared with some which have been sent to other centres in the county.

Have you ever noticed the man who knocks most does the least to improve the cause he knocks? Think of this the next time you hear a man criticizing the Church, the Town Council, the Board of Trade, or the Fire Brigade.—Collingwood Bulletin.

Canada's exports of paper and pulp for the first seven months of the present fiscal year were \$103,949,481, as compared with \$55,000,550 for the same period last year. This is one of the reasons for the high cost of paper to Canadian newspapers.

Before any owner of a motor vehicle can secure a 1931 license he will be obliged to answer on the application form whether or not his vehicle is equipped with an approved non-glaring headlight device, and if it is he must give the name of the device he is using.

A suggestion has been made to change the name of the House of Refuge of the counties of Halton and Peel to that of "The Home for the Aged and Infirm." This would perhaps sound better, if not a misnomer. Occasions may arise however, where inmates are accepted who are neither aged nor infirm.

The County Council has given Messrs. Gagnier permission to erect a monument to the fallen soldiers of the township at the centre of the intersection of the Guelph and Moffat-Speyde roads. If the site of the Old Elm Tree crossroad had been chosen it would have pleased many, but the other site is nearer the centre of the township.

Municipal elections are drawing near, and right now is a good time to cast about for the very best available Council member. This is important. The well-being of a municipality should be the aim of all, and to be a first-class Councillor requires good judgment, unselfishness and a public spirit. Let there be a wise choice for each municipal seat.

An effort is being made by the Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa to gather all possible information regarding the debt of the Dominion, the various provinces and municipalities and issue a comprehensive statement along these lines. It is interesting to note that the Dominion has a debt of \$2,733,811,808. The provinces have a total debt of \$323,025,054, outside of indirect liabilities and guarantees.

It is currently reported that Burlington is to have a \$250,000 race track. This is a matter for sincere regret. Halton county has been free from such a blighting influence heretofore. If a race-track is established, the usual race-track gambling and the sinister influences and conduct which always follow these institutions will inevitably follow this one. Why, in the name of common sense and of morality, does this good province of Ontario permit with impunity what the adjoining states of New York and Michigan prohibit because of their blighting and immoral tendencies? Have't' you sufficient evil in your own country to combat, without permitting the establishment of race tracks to attract the blackleg element from the border cities of the United States to harbor in our towns and cities?

Municipal election matters will soon be to the fore again. A sweeping change has been made in the act respecting municipal elections by the Drury government, at the instigation of the Labor element of that government. The heretofore property qualification of a candidate has been discontinued, and now any householder or property-owner who is a British subject and of age can be candidate for any elective office in the municipality. With no further qualification necessary, there should be no dearth of candidates. The change was made in order to enable the labor element to put their own candidates in the field more freely. The new law will intensify the necessity for guarding the moral qualifications of the candidates. We should have clean, law-abiding citizens as our representatives. By this we do not mean that a workingman's candidate would be anything else but an estimable citizen.—Oakville Record.

The Country Weekly Newspaper
Nearly all the country papers have raised their subscription price from \$1.50 to \$2 per year. This has been made necessary through the increased cost of publication. In common with the city dailies, and the trade and class publications, the country papers have been brought face to face with a very serious situation and have been forced by self-preservation to increase their subscription price. It is to be hoped that no more of the country weeklies will be forced to suspend publication. Already there has been a lengthy list of papers forced into the hands of the receiver. No matter how efficient city papers may be, they can never take the place of the country weekly. There is a personality and a flavor about the home town paper which cannot be furnished by any other publication on earth. To the people of the district it is guide, philosopher and friend, and to those living away from the old home center, its weekly coming is welcomed like a message from an absent friend. For the most part country papers have a real service in fighting the battles of the community. They serve. They see that the interests of the town and of the farm are linked up together. For the most part they have been warm supporters of the modern movement to give the country a larger voice in the affairs of the nation.

Damages for Bad Roads' Accidents

At the last meeting of the County Council, in accordance with the report of the special committee appointed to consider claims for damages for accidents on county roads, it was ordered that cheques should be issued, as follows: Marshall Campbell, \$26.50; Frank Johnson, \$23.25; James O'Connor, \$76. A fourth claim, received a few days previously from Geo. Gordon, for an accident to his motor truck on the base line, was left over to next meeting, the committee to investigate it and report.

Percentage Reduction in Prices

The present reductions in prices expressed in percentages are not so impressive as the percentages of increase were two or three years ago. The consumer who used to head about 100 and even 200 per cent. increases in the price of certain articles may not be deeply stirred by news of a 50 per cent. drop in cotton goods, or a 35 per cent. cut in woollens, but if he reflects a moment he will realize that a 50 per cent. cut is exactly the same as a 100 per cent. advance, made when all goods went soaring with war prices.

Compulsory Education in Ontario

The Department of Education of Ontario is evidently determined that every boy and girl in Ontario is to receive a fair education, whether the children or their parents like it or not. Hereafter all children of school age shall attend school regularly, and lose no time except through illness or other legal reasons. Parents who neglect to send their children regularly may be brought before a magistrate and fined. When pupils lose days, or half days, it interferes with the work of the teachers, and it is unfair to the progress of the children. The fine that may be imposed is from \$5.00 to \$20.00.

Money Interests Oppose Moral Interests

There is no myth about the statement that both in Canada and the United States a powerful, financially supported propaganda is being energetically waged by those interested in making money out of the liquor business. Mr. T. D. McCullough, Secretary of the Social Service Council at London, Ontario, has issued a denial that temperance workers are contemplating the launching of a campaign against the use of tobacco. He declares such stories are not at all for the purpose of turning the public against prohibition. Mr. McCullough alleges that for months back certain sections of the press has been publishing letters ostensibly from persons who are in favor of the passing of legislation which would prohibit the use of tobacco, and that in reality such letters are written by the publicity agents of the distillers and brewers.

The Tragedy of the Hunting Grounds

Little indeed did the editor of this journal think last week when he penned the article, under the above caption, that before the paper was off the press one of his warmest friends would be a victim of just such a tragic accident as had been portrayed as occurring all too frequently every season in the northland hunting grounds. That a man of the type of high-minded and useful citizen as T. James Moore, the able City Manager of Guelph, should fall as a result of alleged culpable carelessness of another hunter, is a calamity beyond words to describe. Because of the off-occurring casualties of this character it would seem to be wisdom on the part of Parliament to enact some drastic measure which would mete out very severe punishment to those hunters who are proven to be so criminally careless as to unnecessarily be responsible for the death of others on the hunting grounds.

Have Farm Lands Reached Their Peak Price

All over Ontario are reports of farms changing hands which had changed owners within five years. No previous period in the last thirty years, at least, witnessed so much activity in this respect as there has been in the last few years. Furthermore, not since the old "barley days" before McKinley and Dingley tariffs barred the way to the American market, have farm lands in this Province commanded such figures as they do to-day. It is probably within the mark to say that prices of ordinary farm lands, in average mixed farming sections, have advanced anywhere from \$20 to \$40 per acre in the last five years. In some sections, owing to special circumstances, the advance has been still greater. Men whose memories go back forty years and more tell of farms in this section selling up to \$100 and \$120 an acre in days long past. After that land gradually sagged until finally similar farms were slow of sale at \$60 to \$80. For some years past prices have been more or less steadily stiffening; firmness being particularly marked in the last three or four years, until now sales at \$100 per acre and beyond, for merely average land, call for no special comment.—St. Mary's Journal-Argus.

Dominion Government's Opposition to Prohibition

That the attitude of the present Government at Ottawa is not overly sympathetic becomes more and more evident daily. Before the Borden Ministry went out of office the Canada Temperance Act was amended that any Province which, by a majority vote of its electors, decided against the importation of liquor from abroad or from another Province would be guarded against importation by bringing the provisions of the Act into force. Four Provinces, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, voted against importation on October 25. It was generally supposed that ended the matter, and that at the expiry of sixty days the importation of liquor into these Provinces for beverage purposes would cease. Now Ottawa despatches intimate that "the law is rather uncertain, and that with reference to giving effect to the recent vote the Minister of Justice is preparing a special report." Representations have been made, it appears, that the date at which importation must cease is, entirely in the discretion of the Government. It cannot cease in less than two months after the Government is notified of the referendum in the various Provinces, but it may be delayed for a longer period. The agents of the liquor traffic are not at all dismayed by the Government's attitude. The agents of the liquor traffic are not at all dismayed by the Government's attitude. The agents of the liquor traffic are not at all dismayed by the Government's attitude.

COMMUNITY BETTERMENT

(Continued from Last Week)

Typical Canadian Village of Yesterday—I shall not deal in generalities, but shall describe specific instances in two county villages. The first was a small village, as a boy at home on my father's farm. So far as I have been able to discover, the history of these two villages is typical of hundreds of villages in the Dominion.

One of them—The first of these villages in its earliest days had a population of about two hundred people. In that village three brothers had settled. One established a carriage shop, another a boot and shoe shop, and the third a general repair shop. Three or four carpenters and an odd blacksmith were employed. All the parts were made in the village, and the village was a self-sufficient community. From the raw material in iron and wood they fashioned the spokes, the felloes, the hubs, the tires, the wheels, the axles, the shafts, the collars, the bolts, and the whitewash. Each man was a general practitioner in his own trade. The carpenters could run a mill, use the draw-plane, or shape the felloes to the curve of the wheel. The blacksmith could forge steel, weld iron, or manufacture bolts.

These three men were thrifty and industrious, working at their own trades and saving money for their families. They were fair, well-to-do, and forty years ago were important and influential men in the community. All were prominent in the church, and were active in the village affairs.

There was a great mill in that village, where the farmers could get their grain ground, and where they could have their clothes made. The mill was a great asset to the village, and the farmers were proud of it. The mill was a source of pride to the village, and the farmers were proud of it.

As the years passed, the village grew, and the farmers began to look for other means of betterment. They began to look for other means of betterment. They began to look for other means of betterment.

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