The Acton Free Press

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H. P. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.

TELEPHONES—
Editorial and Business Office 21W
Residence 11J

EDITORIAL

The railways have raised freight and express and passenger rates so high that shippers have reduced shipping and travellers go as seldom as possible. Do the higher rates really pay, when the trains run anyway?

In last referendum prohibitionists voted "No." In April the ballot will have no fool questions. Just the plain question about prohibition of importation of liquor into Ontario, and every prohibitionist will this time vote "yes."

The House of Commons has started out right by promptly giving the third reading to the bill to amend the Elections Act to comply with the referendum to be taken in Ontario on prohibition on April 18. The dear old Senate concurred.

Price experts at Wshington declare that food prices to-day are 21.5 per cent. lower than they were six months ago. The decline seems to be a really substantial development in the general price situation and not based entirely on seasonal changes, which are so often deceptive.

The poor old Liberty League, which was so generously cursed by its late President, Mr. Machin, for its dishonesty and insincerity, is now trying to camouflage before the public as the Moderation League. Same old deceiver. Everybody will see through its selfish efforts again.

The Hon. "Bob" Rogers who refers to the farmers movement as "a fad" and "a group of men anxious to hold office," has not increased his waning popularity with the farmers by this characterization. The farmers are honest in their public activities, which hardly applies to Bob Rogers' career.

Thirty years ago W. M. O'Beirne became proprietor and editor of the Stratford Beacon. He was an experienced journalist, a vigorous and effective writer. Last Friday he passed away after a prolonged illness. Mr. O'Beirne was a popular newspaper man and was accorded leading positions in the organizations of the daily press.

It looks now as if building material might get down to a reasonable level for the building operations of the season. Lumber dealers of Port Arthur and Fort William announce a reduction of twenty-five per cent. in the price of all dressed and building lumber. Those desirous of building will appreciate this reduction and hope it will soon become general.

Councillors Serving for Pay

Municipal Councillors are waking up throughout the province to their personal financial opportunities. The principal business at the last meeting of the Uxbridge Town Council was the passing of a by-law authorizing the payment of members of the Council at the rate of $2 for each meeting attended and $1 for attendance at regularly constituted committee meetings.

Continued Activities of the Red Cross

During the years of the war the Red Cross Society was one of the most active and effective organizations in supplying real and acceptable help to our soldiers in camp, on the field, or at the front line. It is now gradually but actively adapting itself to the worthy obligation of carrying on its peace-time programme "for the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering." It appears to many thoughtful persons that the time is ripe for a great popular crusade for good health throughout Canada. The campaign in reality is part of a popular crusade for good health more than it is a canvass for the enrolment of members for the sake of dollars. Its purpose is to interest the people generally in health reform—in personal hygienic and good public health measures. The Red Cross can readily adapt itself to such commendible activities.

The Enforcement of The Adolescent School Attendance Act

The Adolescent School Attendance Act will come into force and take effect as follows: Section 3 on September 1, 1921, Section 7 on September 1, 1923, and Section 9 on September 1, 1922. The purpose of bringing the Act into force by stages is to make it possible to adjust gradually school accommodations, courses of study, and employments in industries to the conditions set up by the requirements of the Act. Section 3 of the Act, which comes into operation on September 1, 1921, provides for the attendance at school of adolescents between fourteen and sixteen years of age. The Minister announces that in conformity with this section of the Act, pupils are expected to remain in full-time attendance at school until they are sixteen years of age unless employed on the authority of a home permit or an employment certificate as provided for by the Act, but that it is not his intention to instruct Attendance Officers to make the Act retroactive by endeavoring to compel young persons between fourteen and sixteen years of age who have been engaged in regular employment to return to school. School authorities, accordingly, will, in the beginning, be charged with providing only for the continued instruction of those who are at present at school and not for the numbers who might be forced to return to school by the strictest interpretation of the Act. At the same time, the Minister expects that the Act will be made fully effective to the extent that Atendance Officers ensure, first, that all young persons between fourteen and sixteen years of age shall be either at school or at work; and, second, that all those who are at work either at home or in gainful employments, shall hold the permits or certificates required by law.

The Metre System for Waterworks

City Engineer McArthur, of Guelph, has reported to the City Council that he considers the installation of water metres there would be an economic waste. The adoption of the metre system in connection with Acton waterwprks was for the very purpose of avoiding waste. Our engineer is satisfied that with metres much unnecessary waste will be avoided. The flat rate in relation to the distribution of electric current in Acton was found to be wasteful and inequable. Hence the metre system was adopted. There is every probability that the metre system will be advantageous to the waterworks system here.

The Rural Credits Scheme

A good deal of interest is being taken by the financial institutions in the Rural Credits Bill introduced in the Ontario Legislature on Monday. The object of the measure is to provide Government assistance in the organization of a fund to loan money to farmers for a short term, through farm loan associations or for a long term on mortgages through an Agricultural Development Board. It has been a matter of complaint in some quarters that farmers had difficulty in raising sufficient money to carry on their enterprises, and the experience of Mantiba during the past year or two in the conduct of a rural credits system is mainly the basis, at least as an example, for the venture now proposed by Ontario. If co-operation by the bankers and financial men of the province can be secured the measure, will without doubt prove an effective aid in the matter of farmers' loans.

Canada's Claim to Real Nationhood

At the annual dinner of the Canadian Camp at New York last Friday night Canada's position as a nation was freely acknowledged. The desirability of maintaining friendly relations among the great English-speaking nations and the necessity of the citizens of each to co-operate to this end were emphasized by John Ewart, K. C., of Ottawa. Dr. Henry Van Dyke, who acted as toastmaster, and other speakers dwelt on the bonds that unite the Anglo-Saxon countries. Among the items that went to prove the nationhood of Canada, Mr. Ewart enumerated the following: She was a signatory of the Peace Treaty; she was a charter member of the League of Nations and acted in that body without dictation from any source; she was soon to take over complete management of her international affairs, the first step being the appointment of a Canadian Ambassador at Washington.

No Return to Lightning Rod Agents' Exploits

With the growing popularity of the lightning rod as a preventative of fire from lightning, the Fire Marshall of Ontario is anxious to prevent the unseemly exploits, not to say frauds, perpetrated upon the public by unscrupulous agents a quarter century or so ago. A bill is now before the Legislature entitled "The Lightning Rod Act," and provides for extensive penalties against firms or individuals engaged in the sale of lightning rods who do not comply with the regulations. It is set forth that all firms engaged in the sale of lightning rods pay a yearly fee of $50 and an additional 80 cents for every $100 received from sales. The apparatus must bear inspection and be passed by the Fire Marshall. Each agent must pay a fee of $3 a year and must act for one firm only. The agent is made liable to a fine of $200 for infraction of the regulations. It is further set out that, in the event of damage to a building properly installed with lightning protection, the firm selling is liable to the return of the money paid for the rodding of the building or to pay for the damage done. To insure this each firm must deposit securities of $10,000 with the Fire Marshall.

Unions, Individuals, and Employers

In the case of the Nashville Railway and Light Company versus J. B. Lawson, the Supreme Court of the United States has declared it not to be contrary to the public policy to make and enforce a contract between employer and employee wherein the employee agrees not to join a labor union during the period of his employment. In upholding the right of the employer to make and enforce such a contract with his employees, the court said: "Whatever may be the advantage of 'collective bargaining,' it is not bargaining at all, in any just sense, unless it is voluntary on both sides. The same liberty which enables men to form unions and through the union to enter into agreements with employers willing to agree, entitles other men to remain independent of the union and other employers to agree with them to employ no man who owes any allegiance or obligation to the union. In the latter case, as in the former, the parties are entitled to be protected by the law in the enjoyment of the benefits of any lawful agreement they make."—Nashville Advocate.

Ontario's Chance to Banish Intoxicating Liquor

In eight weeks the people of Ontario will decide whether the liquor traffic is to be annihilated or remain to menace the manhood of this banner province. Every other province in Canada has been giving thought to the same problem, for everywhere the drinking of intoxicating beverages has demoralized the community. In British Columbia the people have voted for the government sale of liquor. In Quebec the government has committed itself to a similar policy because it has found that the wine-and-beer policy, with which the people of this province once inclined to flirt, is a failure. But Quebec and British Columbia are passing from one mistake to another. Saskatchewan has tried out the government sale of liquor, and rejected it as undesirable. Other provinces should profit by Saskatchewan's experience. The Globe points out that the wise course for Ontario is to follow the example of Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba, and vote to prohibit the importation of intoxicating liquor into the province. The Ontario Temperance Act was effective and rum-running almost obliterated until the federal war measure forbidding interprovincial trafficking in liquor was lifted a year ago. Now the Dominion parliament is allowing the people to say whether they want to restore the conditions under which prohibition was effective. The answer should be an emphatic affirmative. By voting in favor of keeping out alcohol for beverage purposes Ontario will place itself in the best position of all the provinces, for an affirmative vote would bring into operation the Sandy bill, which would give the government absolute control of all traffic in liquor for commercial, sacramental, scientific, and medicinal purposes, and greatly facilitate the suppression of illicit selling.

THE DANGEROUS VINE TRELLIS

Managing wives and henpecked husbands are not uncommon in China, in spite of the subordinate position that women are supposed to occupy in that country. A considerable part of the humor of the Chinese is concerned with households where the woman is master; one popular story, quoted by a writer in the Open Court, is as follows:

A district magistrate was sitting in his court, trying cases. When the chief clerk appeared and took his seat the magistrate saw that his face was full of scratches; so he asked him, "What have you done to your face?"

"Yesterday evening," replied the man, "I was sitting under my vine trellis, enjoying the cool breeze, when all at once a gust of wind overturned the trellis, which fell upon me and scatched my face."

But the magistrate did not believe the story. "Evidently these are scratches of finger nails," he said. "I am sure that you had a quarrel with your wife and were scratched by her. Is it not so?"

"Sir, you have guessed right," said the clerk, blushing.

"Is your wife such a dangerous person?" inquired the magistrate. "I shall avenge you by summoning your wife before my tribunal and giving her a good thrashing."

Just as he uttered these words his own wife came rushing in from the next room and said, "Whom are you going to beat?"

The magistrate hurriedly said to his attendants, "The sitting is adjourned. Leave the hall quickly. My vine trellis may collapse at any moment!"

PLANTING A TREE FOR EACH TREE CUT DOWN

Sometimes it is said that in certain European countries the law compels the planting of a tree for every tree cut down, and it is urged that such a law should be enacted in the different provinces of Canada. The expression, however, is only metaphorical. What European countries do provide, is that for every acre of forest cut down, in certain areas unsuitable for agriculture, another crop of trees must be started by either natural or artificial methods of regeneration on that area. When forest trees are planted the trees are set, say, 2,000 to the acre, and when they are harvested, sixty or seventy years later, they stand from 150 to 200 to the acre. If they had been planted 200 to the acre they would have grown short and full of limbs from the ground up, and would be useless for lumber. Planted thickly they reach upward for the light, making long, clear trunks. The trees which never reach maturity are thinned out either naturally or with the axe, after they have served their purpose. Important facts about tree-growth are set out in Forestry Bulletin No. 69, "Care of the Woodlot," which may be had free upon application to the Director of Forestry, Ottawa.

THE WAYS OF TWO MOTHERS

Two boys, John and Henry, were caught by their mothers reading "The Boy Burglar of Chicago." John's mother took her boy's copy away from him, threw it into the ashpan and forbade him to read any more such books under penalty of a good sound thrashing. That afternoon the mother went out, and John, of course, got the book out of the ashpan and finished reading it, as any normal boy would do.

Henry's mother suggested that they read the book together. Mother read it out loud and somehow it didn't sound right to the boy when the story came from his mother's lips. "It isn't much, it is true," said the mother, "but let us finish it." But the boy protested. "Well," said the mother "suppose we read a story like it, but which I think is better." The boy was interested, and the mother read "Robin Hood." The boy voted it great and asked John to come over the next day and listen to it. Then the mother continued with "The Boys' King Arthur," and Fennimore Cooper's "Leather-Stocking Tales." Meanwhile "The Boy Burglar of Chicago" lay on the library table. It was never taken up or finished.

It was simply two ways that two mothers handled the same situation, but they secured different results.—Exchange.

AN UNUSUAL ROMANCE

Miss Lolita Armour, the daughter of the packing house millionaire, was born a cripple. After having sought the aid of specialists in this and foreign countries, without the child being benefitted, Dr. Adolph Lorenz, of Vienna, was brought to Chicago to try his skill on the child when she was six years old. He was becoming known as the inventor of bloodless surgery and was laughed at by many of the great surgeons of the world. He performed many operations in Chicago, and many wonderful cures were made. After six months of treatment, the Armour child was pronounced cured. That was eighteen years ago. Whatever financial remuneration Mr. Armour made—and it was perhaps large—the doctor got much more out of the reputation that came to him because of the successful results of his treatment of the child. It is now announced that Miss Armour and Dr. Lorenz will soon be married and will, we hope, live happily ever after."—Advocate.

IRON GERMS

In the same manner that coral is derived from certain minute sea-insects who flourish in the South Pacific, so certain iron ores are obtained from particular microscopic organisms.

That is the latest scientific discovery, which promises interesting developments.

It has been proved that these germs not only aid in the decomposition of rocks and in the formation of chalk and limestone, but play an active part in the forming of iron-ore deposits.

Laboratory cultures have been made of bacteria which deposit iron compounds both in surface waters and in mine waters hundreds of feet under ground, and the hard crusts and slimy masses that choke up water-supply pipes have been found to be composed of millions of these "iron bacteria."

NOT POPULAR THERE WITH OFFICERS

A mud-bespattered doughboy slouched into the "Y" hut where an entertainment was in progress, and slumped into a front seat. Firmly, kindly and efficient, a Y. M. C. A. man approached him, saying, "Sorry, Buddy, but the entire front section is reserved for the officers."

Wearily the youth rose. "All right," he drawled, "but the one I just got back from wasn't."—American Legion Weekly.

HANDY RECEPTACLE

A convenient receptacle to have around the garage for cleaning bolts, nuts and other small parts is made by removing the bottom from a pound coffee tin and soldering in its place a course wire screen. The parts to be cleaned are then placed in the tin, the cover put on and the receptacle is shaken in a larger pail containing kerosene or gasoline. Dirt and grease is separated from the parts by the oil and is allowed to fall though the mesh.

A good sermon is like a kiss.—It requires but two heads and an application.

WIDE UNREST

The most of people wish they were in some other occupation. They know the disadvantages and perils of their own position and do not realize that all occupations have disadvantages and perils. Those who are in the professions are undergoing a sapping of the brain and nerve foundations. Literary men in this country are driven with whip and spur to their topmost speed. Not one brain-worker out of a hundred observes any moderation.

There is something in all our occupations which predisposes to disease. If we be stout, to disorders ranging from fevers to apoplexy. If we be frail, from diseases ranging from consumption to paralysis. Printers rarely reach fifty years. Watchmakers, in marking the time for others, shorten their own. Chemists breathe death in their laboratories; and potters absorb paralysis. Painters fall under their own brush. Foundrymen take death in with their filings. Shoemakers pound away their own lives on the last. Over-driven merchants measure off their own lives with the yard-stick. Millers grind their own lives with the grist. Masons dig their own graves with the trowel, and in all our occupations and professions there are the elements of peril. By change of business or profession do not let us think we can be freed.—Dr. Talmage.

FOR FUTURE CANADIANS

A country with forests—and no country is more richly blessed in this regard than Canada—has a distinct obligation to see that these forests are conserved so that future generations shall not seriously lack one of the most important contributions to culture and comfort. Finland can teach us a good lesson in the proper care of the forests. Finland, like Canada, must depend in a large measure on the product of the forest to maintain and improve her economic status. To neglect this source of wealth is to invite national bankruptcy. It is most astonishing to us that Canadians have so largely failed to realize the absolute necessity for a proper forest policy for the whole Dominion.—Pulp and Paper Magazine.

INDIAN CALM

You cannot startle an Indian, declares Mr. Malcolm McDowell in the Washington Star, nor can you ruffle his calm dignity.

I once had the satisfaction of pointing out to an Indian chief an aeroplane sailing across the sky. It was the first aeroplane he had ever seen, and I had fond hopes that he would show some excitement.

"There!" I said. "There! What do you think of it? Isn't it astounding, ary?"

The chief looked up at the aeroplane calmly, then he looked at me.

"But it was built to do that, wasn't it?" he said.

A HARSH CRITIC

The gentleman dining at the table nearest to the orchestra got up from his chair and approached the orchestra leader.

"Do you ever play by request?" he asked.

"Certainly, sir," replied the delighted musician.

"Then," said the man, "I wonder if you and your men would be so good as to play a game of dominoes until I've finished my lunch?"

HICCOUGHS

It is reported that more than one hundred residents of the Windsor district are suffering from hiccoughs, and the disease contiques to puzzle the medical profession. One Windsor physician claims to be treating twenty-five cases, all of whom are members of a fraternal society. We do not remember of hearing about this complaint so much at the border when Rev. Spracklin was on the job.—Aylmer Express.

MOUNTAINS AS MAGNETS

Magnetic observations of the extinct volcano called the Puy de Dome, in central France, have brought out the curious fact that the mountain is magnetized not merely at certain points, but as a whole, the top of the dome acting as a south magnetic pole. Singularly enough, similar observations on the Kaiserstuhl, a mountain in Germany, indicate that it possesses a north magnetic pole at its summit.

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Every mother within walking distance would rather have your fresh vegetables—and pay you a price that will make your pockets jingle.

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Notice to Creditors

OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS GRAY, DECEASED

The creditors of Thomas Gray, late of the Village of Acton, Physician, who died on or about the twenty-fourth day of January, 1921, are required on or before the fourth day of March, 1921, to send by post prepaid or otherwise deliver to the undersigned solicitor for the Executrix, a statement of their accounts, the nature of the security, if any, held by them, and full particulars of their names, addresses and descriptions.

And notice is hereby further given, that immediately after the said fourth day of March, 1921, the said Executrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the said estate among the parties entitled thereto, and she will not be responsible for any claims of which she shall not have received notice at the time set forth for such distribution.

Dated at Acton, Ontario, this fourth day of February, A. D. 1921.

BESSIE LAURETTA MUNDEN GRAY
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Announcement

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