

# The Acton Free Press

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H. P. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.

TELEPHONES—

Editorial and Business Office  
President

## EDITORIAL

The Free Press' Forty-Seventh Volume.

With this issue of the Free Press commences its forty-seventh volume. Verily, we are rapidly approaching the list of the venerables among the local newspapers of the Province. With nearly half a century to its credit this journal has been associated with nearly the whole of Acton's official career as a municipality. The incorporation of this town dates back to 1873; the Free Press was founded on the eighth birthday of the Dominion of Canada, July 1, 1875. From the outset nine of this newspaper has been to both fully and satisfactorily represent the interests of the town and community from which its support is so largely derived. In this respect the readers of its columns will readily testify that Acton's best interests, materially, morally and socially have ever been carefully and loyally presented from week to week through all the years. During its lifetime the Free Press has seen much community and national development and has always been pleased to have some share in the advancement and betterment of the country and its conditions of life. It has been gratifying that the paper itself has been able to make advancement from time to time in the quality and arrangement of its journalistic bill of fare, and is to-day well abreast of the local newspapers published in towns of the size and importance of Acton anywhere in our Dominion. This has been made possible because of the very loyal support of the residents of the community, which is hereby gratefully acknowledged, and it is with pleasure and gratification the statement can be made that the Free Press' circulation has been a constant growth and is larger to-day than ever before. The present editor has had forty-three years of uninterrupted control of the destinies of Acton's newspaper. His aim will continue to be: the advancement of the best interests of the community, first, last and always.

### The New Highway Route

Whatever may be the future experiences of Hon. S. C. Biggs, Minister of Public Highways, he will surely remember the multiplicity of suggestions made by delegations and municipal officials relative to that section of the Toronto to Sarnia Highway between Acton and Brampton. It may be taken for granted that he has honestly aimed to do two things: First to secure the best route for the highway as a whole; and second, to meet the wishes of the largest possible number of persons to be served in the territory of the section named. The Georgetown Herald of last week reports the latest move in relation to the route of the proposed highway, as follows: "Hon. Mr. Drury, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Mr. Biggs and Engineer McLean were in town on Wednesday and went over the two routes suggested for the new Provincial Highway. They met a number of the ratepayers and those interested in the Council Chamber in the afternoon and the two routes were discussed from various angles. The Premier said a survey and an estimate of the cost of the two proposed routes would be made and then submitted to the Council and others interested before a definite route would be finally designated through Georgetown. The suggestion with reference to serving the County Town makes it look quite possible that when finally settled the check line will be the route."

### The Party System in Australia

They have had trouble with the party system of government in Australia as we have had in Canada. As a result the Porth Western Main sums up the conditions as follows: "There will always be parties while there are differences of opinion and all parties have a right to be represented not only in any parliament that claims to be democratic, but in every government that is deemed to be established on democratic foundations. The trouble about the party system as we see it in operation is that it has become crystallized; that it has not adapted itself to a radically changed environment. There was a time when the mother of parliaments and the several colonial parliaments could be rightly divided into two parties. For long this has not been the case. We now see three, four and more parties sitting in the one chamber and governed by groups, the logical sequel of which is proportional representation and electric ministries, but up to the present no parliament in the British Empire has been logical. If parliament is to be rehabilitated these reforms must be effected."

### Impassable Barrier to Future Quarrels

Making a play for continued Anglo-American friendship, in speaking before the English-speaking Union at London last week, Winston Churchill declares: "The joint advance of British, Australian and American troops in France on July 4, 1918, raised an impassable barrier to future quarrels between English-speaking peoples. We must never hesitate in our exertions to counteract the malicious and false-hearted people, who, while professing to be friends of the British Empire on one hand and of the United States on the other, are endeavoring to create divergencies between the two countries." The hundred years of peace must be perpetuated, and it no doubt will.

### The Futility of Strikes Again

Another phase of the pernicious and unreasonable adoption of the strike method for securing concessions which are believed to be desirable by workmen was the strike of policemen and firemen last week in the city of Quebec. Criminal, it was, especially when some of the strikers tampered with the waterworks hydrants when a fire was in progress. Concerted action by Canadian municipalities to prevent strikes among firemen and policemen and to provide for the settlement of all disputes by arbitration cannot be taken, a day too soon. Conditions such as those attending the Quebec firemen's strike are intolerable.

### Prophesies a Liberal Government

Hon. R. H. Grant, Minister of Education in the Ontario Government, reads the Medicine Hat election last week as a sign that the Liberal Party will predominate in the next Dominion House, and also as an indication that the Meighen Government is doomed to certain defeat, and to a return to Ottawa with the smallest group in the House. The prophecy, no doubt, is father to the hope of the Ontario Minister.

### Canada and Belgium Trading Generously

An increase of approximately eight million dollars in export of Canadian goods to Belgium during the twelve months ending May 31, last, as compared with the twelve-month period ending May 31, 1920, is shown by the trade summary issued through the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Imports from Belgium during the twelve months under review, rose to \$4,756,340, as against a total of \$1,507,684 for the year ending May 31, 1920. These large business relations mean much in the development of profitable trade for the future.

### Great Britain and the Dominions

It is surely gratifying to note the kindly attitude of the Government of Great Britain on the relation of the Dominions to the Empire. If there had been any doubt as to the attitude on the question of the relation of Canada and the other Dominions it would have been dispelled by the debate in the House of Commons last week on the agenda of the Premiers' Conference. One thing that this debate made clear was the unanimity of all parties and classes in Great Britain, Radicals, Unionists, Laborites and Liberals, in their recognition of the Dominions as co-equal partners in a commonwealth of self-governing States. This is as it should be, and the present conference of the premiers of these various Dominions, now in progress in London, must enhance this feeling of solidarity.

### Disarmament Proposals

The important proposal for disarmament by the nations of the world is manifestly growing in favor and commanding wider consideration. When an important nation as the United States seriously considers this question it augurs well for an ultimate success of the proposal. President Harding is prepared to call a conference of the leading naval powers for a discussion of the limitation of armaments as soon as the Naval Appropriations Bill, carrying the Bosphorus Disarmament Amendment, becomes law. Although approving thoroughly the principle of Disarmament, the President believes the problem difficult to solve and dangerous to handle at this time. He is, nevertheless, willing to offer the call to a conference of the nations for discussion of the great question.

### The Wide-Spread Vice of Gambling

It does seem a strong reflection upon the Christian nations that it is left to China to inaugurate a crusade against gambling. Yet this spirit has taken hold of the Chinese people. 15,000 citizens of Canton, in a parade several miles long, recently presented to the Governor a petition from more than 50,000 members of the Anti-Gambling Society, asking for the abolition of the gambling vice in Canton. Churches, schools, trade and labor organizations took part in the affair. The answer to the petition was a proclamation to stop gambling, which order is to be enforced by military law. If Canada as a whole could be persuaded to unite in a campaign against race track gambling particularly much could be accomplished. Attorney-General Raney of Ontario has taken an aggressive position on the important question, and the church courts have generally endorsed his position in relation to the matter. But it requires more than speeches and resolutions to accomplish the ends desired.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

The Irish people, north and south, desire peace, whether those who presume to be leaders wish it or not.

Alberta general elections will be fought with short campaigns. Sixty-one seats are to be filled in fifty-two ridings on July 18.

The prospects for lower prices for wheat are not encouraging to the farmers. There's too much of a spread between wheat and corn.

Of the soldiers in Canada who have gone farming since the war, and received Government loans, five-sixths of them have settled in the four western provinces.

The Duke of Connaught continues his kindly exertions for Canada. At the Dominion Day dinner at London last Friday, in responding to the toast to the Royal family, he spoke in happy recollections of the years he spent in Canada.

"Work or go to jail" is an order issued by the police of New Orleans, aimed at the marine strike. Boiling on strike will not be taken as an excuse for not working. Even in St. Paul's time the edict went forth, "If a man will not work neither shall he eat."

"Back to the Farm" is being acted upon in earnest in the United States. According to the Department of Agriculture, six million men have left the cities and gone back to the farms. The supply of farm labor now is placed at 65 per cent.

The British Government announces that there will be no autumn session of Parliament. The chief proposal for legislation next session will be the reform of the House of Lords. It's a pity similar legislation could not be devised for the reform of our Canadian "House of Lords."

The success of Robert Gardner, Progressive candidate in the Medicine Hat Federal by-election, has stimulated Alberta Farmers to greater action in the Provincial election which will be held on July 18, and the United Farmers of Alberta will have candidates in most of the rural ridings.

The practice which has been in vogue for some time on leading highways of buying and selling fruit, vegetables, etc., on Sundays must cease. This is a violation of the Lord's Day Act, and the Attorney-General has given notice that prosecutions will be instituted if this traffic is continued. There is certainly no necessity for such buying and selling.

### Imperial Memento to Next of Kin

A Bronze Plaque, Inscribed, with Letter From the King to Each Family

The bronze plaques which are being sent to the Imperial Guardsmen, to the next of kin of all Empire soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice in the late war have reached Canada, some 30,000 of the survivors having been received at the Department of Health, Ottawa. These will be distributed as soon as possible.

There will be in the neighborhood of 400,000 of these distributed throughout Canada. With them goes a letter from His Majesty worded as follows:

"I bring with my grateful people in sending you this memento of a brave life which you have dedicated to your country. It is from me as a gift."

This letter is dated from Buckingham Palace. With it is a scroll reading: "He whom this scroll commemorates was a son of King and Country, who, at all times, did his duty well."

The plaque is in bronze and is about six inches in diameter. It contains the inscription: "He died for freedom and honor, and the name, number and rank of the dead soldier. The plaque contains Britannia, the lion, the unicorn, and the motto, 'Duty and Honor.'

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