The Acton Free Press

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H. P. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.

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EDITORIAL

A Prophecy of Good Times Coming

"Good times are coming," said Thomas A. Edison, the electrical wizzard, to a prominent business man of New York, the other day. "The tide already has begun to turn. Times are getting better now, slowly, of course, but surely. These periods of depression are caused by a faulty adjustment of our economic machine, or by it being thrown out of gear by some unusual force such as war. The machine is all right; it will work properly as soon as the obstruction is removed."

Recovering from Lumbermen for Illegal Cutting

It looks very much as if the Provincial Government is "getting the hides on the fence" themselves, in the matter of the timber limits discussion, instead of having other people get theirs, as was prophesied a year ago by a certain ex-Minister of Forests and Mines. The Drury Government has already recovered $121,111 from lumbermen for excessive overrun and trespassing which occurred when this ex-minister was in office. The Government is now suing the lumber company which is regarded as the greatest offender, and expects to swell the amount recovered by upwards of half a million dollars.

The General Election

Parliament has dissolved, the general elections are on; and the electorate is already being studiously informed as to the issues before them. The main issue is pretty definitely defined, and indications are that the old policies of protection and free trade will be the main principles advocated, and strong efforts be made to line up the old Grit and Tory parties on these issues. Protection, as initiated by Sir John A. Macdonald and carried on so assiduously by his followers through all the years; and free trade, so eloquently advocated by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and by the Liberal party up to present. It is, in a sense, the old battle of Macdonald versus Laurier all over again. Many people in Canada hoped very sincerely that through the exigencies of the war, and the election of the Union Government as a result, that we, as a country, would ultimately grow away from the old hard and fast party lines. But present indications do not foreshadow an early disintegration of party ties. The U. F. O and the People's Political Party may, however, have a powerful influence in some constituencies in causing a break with old line partyism, which may eventually mean less definite old party distinctions. Up to the present, however, there is no outstanding leadership in this field for Federal issues.

The Stimulating Influence of Enthusiasm

The enthusiastic man is usually a successful man. The succesful man has always an element of enthusiasm in his make-up. Life's greatest stimulant is enthusiasm. It is the magic that makes any task a delight. Without it we can accomplish little worth while. With an abundance of it we can turn any apparent defeat into triumph, and seeming failure into success. Pages have been written about enthusiasm, defining it, describing it, telling what wonders it can work, what miracles it can perform. Yet the simplest may know as much about it as the most learned, because it is within the reach of all. A splendid thing about enthusiasm is its quality of multiplying. One enthusiastic worker will create or develop many others of similar nature and determination. Enthusiasm has been compared with a vast number of things. Whatever it may be called, we know that enthusiasm warms our hearts, and fills us with a thrill of happy purpose. If young people are enthusiastic about their class, about their school, about their town, about their home, their farm, their car—anything, indeed, to which they have a bond of ownership—they must certainly have nothing within them that is mean or hampering, nothing but which will be helpful, inspiring, uplifting. If it is our job, then our job is a thing of glory, however humble it may be. And in doing our work, when stimulated by the fire of enthusiasm, we will render service worth while.

The Promotion of Rural Industries

Speaking recently on the subject of unemployment Premier Drury suggested as a partial remedy a revival of the village industry idea, as far as it can be practised. "Out in the country next winter," he is reported as saying, "there will be no lack of food and shelter and there will be plenty of fuel. There is no unemployment on the farms; in fact, my neighbors tell me they have not been able to get enough help this summer." A suggestion on similar lines is contained in a report on the future of disabled soldiers in Great Britain which was issued recently by a joint committee of representatives of the Ministries of Pensions, Agriculture, Trade, Health, Labor, and Education. The committee recommends that selected home industries should be organized in rural districts to supplement agriculture. It is claimed that by increasing the prosperity of rural life and judiciously combining and supplementing agricultural work with selected home industries, it will be possible to achieve the following objects: (a) To check further rural depopulation and emigration; (b) to re-distribute men and their families on the soil; (c) to foster agricultural activities, and particularly to render small holdings economic; (d) to increase the economic stability of all classes of rural workers in times of depression; (e) to balance industrial forces by distributing instead of concentrating workers; (f) to restore the national standard of health. Ordinary factory methods are recognized as unsuitable for the proposed rural industries; which should be limited to the capacities of men debarred from ordinary industrial competition. Recent developments in motor transportation, it is suggested, make the scheme easy to put into practice. An advisory committee of doctors concurred in the conclusions of the Departmental Committee.

Boost—Don't Knock—The Provincial Highways

There is considerable complaint, especially among opposing politicans, about the amount of money being spent on public highways. When real substantial roads are built, however, irrespective of their location, a large degree of satisfaction is expressed by the residents of the community adjacent thereto. The opening of the new Dundas Street Highway, from Cooksville in to the city on Saturday was the occasion of a real U. F. O. jubilation, and the consumation of a substantial hard-faced roadway to be thankful for. Ontario throughout may well emulate such a jubilation when similar trunk lines and leading roads are completed north and south, east and west, within the province's domain.

Young Folks; Be Alert and Interested

This is a busy life, and, whether it is in the new work which young folks have engaged in, or the new school duties of another academic year, they should be alert and interested. If there is a lack of either of these desirable qualities they should be cultivated without let or hindrance, if success in life is desired. When young people yawn over their work or study it is not being done as it should be. They cannot be dull and sleepy, and at the same time alert and interested. The work is not well done unless they have put some heart into it. They find out the reason for their mood. Know why it is that they want to yawn over their work or study, instead of finding it so interesting that weariness is forgotten in the churn of achievement.—Late hours, lack of exercise, or too much exercise and late hours, or too much time spent in reading, may account for this listness, and they owe it to themselves not to tolerate any such interruptions to their power and efficiency.

"Patronize the Home Merchant"

In a letter published elsewhere in this issue F. J. Spear takes the FREE PRESS to task for its articles on Patronizing the Home Merchant, which have been published with a view to engendering a spirit of loyalty to the business men of our town who are exerting themselves to provide good reliable goods at reasonable prices at the doors of our citizens. In a rather facetious vien Mr. Spear has arrayed a series of alleged overcharging for various articles in comparison with other goods evidently purchased at some of Toronto's "cut-rate" drug stores, and at special sales in departmental city stores. Happily, Mr. Spear's experience is not the experience of many others who have tried the Toronto and other outside purchasing fad. If he had tried in Acton during the past week he would have been able to buy many drug store goods at prices below the Toronto cut-rate stores. And, if he is fair enough to add the expenses of his trips to Toronto to the prices on the half-dozen special articles quoted, he will find that he would have been money in pocket, and saved a day of his valuable time, if he had made his purchases in Acton, and our merchants would have had a percentage of profit to devote to the payment of their own taxes and for other legitimate expenditures. How can local merchants be expected to purchase goods in the large quantities which command lower prices from the jobbers and manufacturers, if Mr. Spear and his friends go to Toronto for the bulk of their goods, and only patrônize the home merchants when they want the accommodation of goods in a hurry, or when it is not convenient for them to take a trip to Toronto?

EDITORIAL NOTES

The women now have Canada's destinies in their hands. Over the Dominion they outnumber the men by a considerable number on the voters' lists. Politicians! Walk straight.

It is surely not very creditable to Canada that the liquor for the Arbuckle "party" in San Francisco, Cal., at which a young lady was alleged to have been murdered, was secured at Vancouver, B. C.

This experience is not unique. Kincardine ratepayers complained about a 48 mill tax rate last year and elected a new Council to bring the rate down. Behold! This year's rate is 51 mills.

Premier Meighen's proposed new Canadian Grain Board may have some merit, but its precipitant announcement on the eve of a general election makes it read suspiciously like campaign literature.

The Attorney-General is quite determined to stamp out the wheels of fortune and other gambling devices used under the auspices of fraternal organizations and churches. "They will not be tolerated," he says.

Prohibition is now a living issue in India. A bill has been presented in the Bombay Legislative Council to provide for prohibition of the manufacture, sale, export and import of liquor into the presidency of Bombay.

Mail and Empire declares that the chaps who were elected as Unionists and then bolted can't be re-collected. Oh, well, they won't be alone. Some of the chaps who were elected as Unionists and didn't bolt, can't either.—Daily Star.

Dominion Parliament was dissolved on Monday; nomination day is announced for November 30; elections on Wednesday, December 7. Now for two months in which the electors of Canada will study their privileges and responsibilities.

The editor of The Farmers' Sun declares that the rural Press, provides a bulwark for much that was best in national life. "The only bulwark against this drift to the cities," he said, "is to be found in the creation of a strong and virile public opinion in the rural districts." He's quite right, of course.

For nailing his flag to the mast, Sam Carter does what all the rest of the dyed-in-the-wool party men have failed to do, pledges himself to consult his constituents in any matter about which he may have doubts regarding its propriety. Not a blind partisan, but a legislator with wide open eyes.—Guelph Mercury.

Thirty cents an hour is regarded as a fair standard wage for workers on highways in the rural parts of the province, according to a statement made by Hon. Frank C. Biggs, Minister of Public Works, in commenting upon the charge made by George G. Halcrow, Labor member from East Hamilton, who claimed that the rate was "a starvation wage."

PATRONIZING THE HOME MERCHANT

Editor Acton Free Press.

Dear Sir: I have repeatedly noticed your "Patronize the Home Merchant" articles; was greatly interested in them, and have often felt inclined to enter the arena, but have always hoped that some other poor, misguided creature would rush in and say "baa" like a good little goat, but the goats in Acton are wise ones; they would rather saw wood and say "mullin," so herewith I trail the "tail 'o m' coat" for the home merchant to "trim" on.

Patronizing home industries, and especially your home-town merchants, should be a duty to everybody; should require no newspaper "propergander" whatever, for, after all, we are very much in the position of the Sandwich Islanders, who are said to live by doing each other's washing, but Mr. Editor, and a very big BUT, the home merchants should also do a little patronizing of "home-town buyers," but do they, I unconvertedly say they do not. If it were not for the departmental and other big stores, or the fear of them, the home-town merchants would skin us alive. I and my family have tried and tried again to restrict our buying to Acton, in fact Bobby Bruce's spider has felt quite dizzy just watching us "try, try, try again."

As a slight illustration of what I mean I will just mention a few items happened to bring up with me last Saturday—mere household requisites: 1.—Hledman's Powders, price marked on packet is 25c.; in Acton we have paid 35c.; I got them in Toronto for 17c. 2.—Fruit-a-tives Pills, 50c. in Acton, 35c. in Toronto. 3.—Mendlatum, 50c. in Acton, 35c. in Toronto. 4.—Khovah Health Salts, 15c. in Acton, two for 19c. in Toronto. 5.—Soap, 15c. straight in Acton, 13 for $1.00 in Toronto; another place 5 cakes for 35c., and anywhere two for 25c.

Then, again, matches (and who uses more than a farmer) are 15c. straight in Acton; two boxes for 25c. and three for 35c. in Toronto. H. P. Sauce is 40c. in Acton, 35c. in Toronto, one store making a "bargain" of it occasionally for 29c. A pair of farm boots for one of my sons at $4.95 and express paid could not be duplicated in Acton under $7.50. We tried, so we know.

Like other millionaires, I have had some very acrimonious bickering with Mr. H. C. L. and asked an Acton "Home Merchant" his price for fixing the bottom of a pair of pants. After very mature consideration he said 50c. (being the Toronto price.) I left them, as a matter of fact, I left them for two weeks—I had to—he was so very, very busy. During the third week my son called for them, and he "soaked" my son 75c.—"our son," Also I took an overcoat to be relined to an Acton "H. M." got his price, left the coat, told him to take his time, and in due course it was finished. Now, Mr. Editor, you know that your arm should slip into the sleeve of an overcoat like a melon down a nigger's throat—slick! But that coat, well!—every time I put it on I say the same thing as the parson said when he sat on the business-end of a tack—only more so. It sticketh closer than a brother! In the future, sir, if "mother" can't fix my old duds, Acton won't.

Even our cream we now send to Toronto, 3c. per lb. more and they pay express both ways.

You will have noticed, Mr. Editor, that I have only mentioned a few common, ordinary, everyday goods. I could continue ad. lib. but unless some "spalbeen trips on m' coat" good and proper and the spirit moveth me mightily, I am through. I only wish to show you that I and my family, my neighbors, and every man and woman in and around Acton needs no incentive to "toe the line" and buy of the Home Merchant IF the H. M. would also toe the line a little themselves. Their overhead expenses are infinitely less than either Guelph, or Toronto, and yet their prices are higher—much higher. It is futile for them to get you to chortle for them. "Will you walk in to my parlor," and get a "wallop" in the eye, and then get sore because we wink that eye and run to the departmental or big store where we can get as good or better articles at a very much lower price, and I know that every farmer who gets 9c. for his pork and pays 20c. for cooked ham, will go and do likewise, for they, although you do not seem to recognize the fact, also "are paying the taxes of the community" vide du "Free Press," d'Acton, September 22, and they, the farmers, get nothing (let that soak in, Mr. Editor) for those taxes, except the privilege of repairing their own roads.

In conclusion, what you say in your editorial, September 22, "the more goods that are sold by the merchants in a town like Acton, the more not only will the merchants prosper," etc., etc., is true, very true, indeed, if things were not actually so one-sided, but under the present and existing circumstances, as I have tried to elucidate, it rather forcibly reminds me of that poor, dear young lady of Niger

"Who went for a ride with a tiger.
They returned from their ride
With the lady inside,
And a smile—on the face of the tiger."

Belah!

Yours faithfully,
F. J. SPEAR.

Esquesing, September 30, 1921.

NOT A MODERN FIRE BRIGADE

It was a sleepy village, and its fire department was anything but up-to-date. One night a fire was announced by the violent ringing of the alarm bell, and the sleepy brigade arrived at the scene of action to find the burning building a mass of smoke. No flames were visible from the outside. The captain made a careful survey. Then he lit his pipe and started to smoke. "We'd better leave it alone and let it burn up a bit," he said. "Then we'll be able to see what we are doing.'

PLEASED TO MEET HER

A minister told the story of a strapping fellow who brought his demure young bride to the manse for matrimonial purposes.

"According to my custom," said the minister, "I turned to the bridegroom at a certain part of the ceremony and said, 'John, this is your lawfully-wedded wife.'

"In the excitement of the occasion, John turned in the direction of his newly-acquired partner and stammered, 'I'm pleased to meet you.'"

TRUTH AT LEAST

A man was found by a policeman one evening investigating a building somewhat closely.

"What are you doing?" asked the policeman.

"Nothing," replied the man; "I am thinking of opening a jewellery store here, and I thought I would look it over," and so he was allowed to remain.

The next morning when it was reported that the jewellery store had been robbed, the policeman scratched his head, and finally said:

"Well, that man may be a thafe, but he's no liar!"

HIS MOVE

They had stopped on a lonely road, while the young man worked feverishly with the car.

"I can't start the engine," he said, wearily. "This thing won't spark."

"Just like some people I know," she replied with a smile.

OLD FRANCE IN CANADA

(1.) "Made in France" Train at Place Viger Station.

(2.) The car illustrating "The Intellectual Development of France," put up by the "Ministere des Beaux Arts" of France, in which the public can see some fine paintings and pieces of sculpture.

A Made-in-France exhibition train is now touring Canada, over the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was opened at the C. P. R. Viger Station, Montreal, on August 29th, amongst those present being Premier Arthur Meighen, Mayor Martin, of Montreal, and Senator C. P. Beaubien, who organized the bringing of the French exhibition to Canada and the tour of the train throughout the Dominion.

The object of the train carrying French goods is to promote cordial, social and commercial relations, reciprocally advantageous to both countries.

The train consists of a baggage car, eight exhibition cars, a tourist, a diner, and two sleeping cars. The eight coaches of the train carry goods representative of:

1.—The intellectual development of France;
2.—Industries, commerce and tours;
3.—French styles;
4.—Leather industries;
5.—Chemical goods, perfumery;
6.—Instruments of various kinds, electrical goods, toys;
7.—Agriculture, horticulture, food;
8.—Jewellery, objects of art, clocks, watches.

But this list only gives an idea of the hundreds of things on exhibition.

In the tour of the Dominion the train will travel a total of 7,993 miles.

During the four days which the train remained in Montreal it was visited by thousands of interested persons. It was a huge success at the Toronto Fair and is attracting large numbers everywhere it goes through the country.

A member of the staff of the Canadian Government commercial intelligence service is travelling with the train, partly in order to study the results obtained from a business point of view. The information gleaned is to be used in fixing up the trainload of Canadian products which it is stated is to be sent later on a tour to France and probably the United Kingdom and other European countries.

QUEEN VICTORIA AND GLADSTONE'S RUDENESS

A member of the Royal Household is credited with the following new anecdotes about Queen Victoria:

The late Queen ran the Court on German lines, and was extremely severe. She would never allow the Maids of Honor to sit in her presence. Gladstone made himself unpopular by criticising this custom when he was once at Court:

"After dinner the statesman sat next to Queen Victoria in the spacious green saloon. Half-a-dozen of the senior ladies of the Court sat in chairs ranged in a semi-circle behind her Majesty, and behind stood the Maids of Honor and Equerries in Waiting.

"During a pause in the conversation between her Majesty and the then Prime Minister, the latter said to the Queen:

"'I feel somewhat embarrassed, your Majesty, at seeing those young ladies standing while I am seated.'

"'You need not feel embarrassed,' replied Her Majesty, rather severely. 'It is the rule of the Court that they should stand in the presence of their Sovereign.'

"'I hope Your Majesty will pardon me for saying that it is a rule I wish Your Majesty could see your way to alter,' replied Mr. Gladstone, bluntly.

"Her Majesty made no reply, but so angry was she that, a few minutes later, she rose from her chair and, giving the Prime Minister the stiffest of bows, retired for the night, accompanied by her Mistress of the Robes, the then Duchess of Roxburghe, and her Ladies of the Bedchamber.

"The next morning Mr. Gladstone left Windsor without seeing the Queen."

There is also this story about the Queen:

"The two subjects in which Queen Victoria showed the greatest interest in the last few years of her life were the making of her will, and about how she would read in history. On the latter point she was extraordinarily sensitive, and very much open to flattery, yet at times she was almost pathetically fearful that future historians would not speak as well of her as she would wish.

"Once she said to the late Lord Salisbury:

"Sometimes I fear it may be written of me that I reigned too long.

"'Too long, Your Majesty,' replied Lord Salisbury, who was by no means an inexperienced courtier, 'for the greatness and beneficence of your rule ever to be underrated, even by the careless student of history.'"

"A FRIENDLY SOUL"

"She is such a friendly soul that no one can help liking her."

I overheard these words one day on a railway train. I do not know to whom they referred for the woman sitting behind me were unknown to me. It was a chance remark that set me to thinking. It sustained my own long-established conviction that any one who can truly be called a "friendly soul" will always have friends. There is something irresistable in genuine human friendliness. It makes a universal appeal. It is one of the most beautiful of the graces of life, and it is never so beautiful as when it knows no limitations or discrimination but is shown to all with whom one comes into contact from the poor, crippled beggar on the street to the person of high degree. There is a subtle something about it that suggests the couplet "Friendship! mysterious cement of the soul!
Sweet'ner of life! and solder of society!"

Nothing is a greater "sweet'ner of life" than simple, human friendship. Nothing is so necessary in cementing together in a kindly and beautiful way the people of a community or an organization. I know of a church that is often called "such a friendly church." It need not be added that it has larger congregations than some other churches have. One member comes a distance of twelve miles to it.

The other day I heard it said of a family that all of the members of it were "such friendly people." If that is literally true that family cannot fail of exerting an influence for good in the community. Any home from which there emanates a constant spirit of true friendliness is a home that contributes a great deal to the growing good of the world.

Coleridge wrote that friendship was a sheltering tree. And one seeks the gentle and cooling shade of the tree in the summer, resorts to it for shelter in a time of storm, so can one turn to the "tree of friendship" and find a shelter and a sense of protection not to be found elsewhere.

But there are friendships and friendships. Some are to be avoided. Friends must be chosen with care.

The "friendly soul" always treats kindly even those with whom it is not desirable to be on very intimate terms of friendship. Nothing is lost by being friendly and kind under all circumstances; but the friends with whom one chooses to associate constantly must be chosen with care. The desire to be liked, to be popular is innate in the vast majority of human beings. This desire is to be achieved only by those who are in the best sense of the term "friendly souls."

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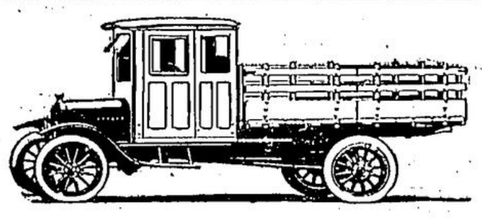

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