The Acton Free Press

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H. F. MOORE, Editor and Publisher.

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EDITORIAL

Toronto-Hamilton Highway Commission to be Abolished

The Ontario Government has decided to abolish the Toronto-Hamilton Highway Commission. Each member of the Commission has received a letter, signed by Premier Drury, stating that the resignation of each member of the Commission was being requested by the Government. It is understood that the Government will make the first step of the new arrangment, the transference of the work of the present Commission to a commission composed of members of the staff of the Highways Department and that this arrangement will hold good until the next session of the Ontario Legislature. The Highway Commission did the province splendid service in the construction of the Toronto-Hamilton Highway. They built the first permanent highway and demonstrated that it could be maintained. Their work having been accomplished it was felt that the Highways Department of the Government can now more economically supervise this provincial roadway.

Leader King Doesn't Like Coalitions

At one of his campaign meetings the other day W. L. Mackenzie King, the Liberal leader, expressed his dislike for coalitions in the following terse sentences: "If there is one thing this world is sick of, and ought to be sick of, it is coalition. Coalition means expensive government. It means lack of decision in matters of policy. It means costly administration. The only way in which we will carry on in Canada and get a sort of government that is going to help our country in the future is by having one party so strongly supported in parliament that it will be able to have a policy of its own, and carry out that policy.' Well, now, it seems to be the opinion of a good many of the electors that Mr. King may be quite thankful if he has an opportunity to assist in the formation of a coalition government after the sixth of December. It is believed to be good guessing that neither Mr. King nor Mr. Meighen nor Mr. Crerar will have sufficient of a majority to form an independent government.

Teachers' Agreements to Mean More

Present indications are that the agreements between teachers, when engaged, and the Trustee Boards employing them, will be in the future more effective, and perhaps more satisfactory to all concerned. At a joint meeting of representatives of Trustee Boards, ratepayers and Teachers' Associations recently held in Toronto a resolution was passed, requesting the Minister of Education to amend the Public Schools, Continuation Schools, and High Schools Acts so as to require all teachers to enter into a written agreement with School Boards, to be effective until the close of the school year in June, such agreement to be renewable from year to year unless terminated by either party on September 1 by at least 30 days' notice in writing. A resolution was also passed calling upon the Minister of Education to appoint a Board of Reference for the purpose of settling disputes between trustees and teachers. That the school year be made to coincide with the academic year from September to June, instead of from January to December, was the subject of another resolution. The purpose of this proposed change is to ensure more uniformity in the annual reports. Some discussion took place in regard to teachers leaving schools before the term was completed. It was stated that certain teachers had accepted positions and afterward withdrawn upon receiving an offer of a position with a higher salary. It was contended that there should be a "code of honor" drawn up to bind teachers to honor their agreements in spirit as well as in letter. This series of resolutions, incorporated in an amendment to the school law, would be beneficial in several ways, and would tend to elevate the teaching profession very considerably.

Canada's Neighborliness and Neighbors

One evening last week Sir George Foster, one of our new Senators, was the chief speaker at the Bankers' Club dinner at Detroit, and in good-natured terms gave the financiers across the line something to think about. He was introduced as representing "The best neighbor any country ever had," and he made the best of this felicitous introduction. He was subtly sarcastic in his reference to the disparity in exchange between Canada and the United States. In talking of the Washington Conference, he prophesied an international conference of finance at an early date as the next move in restoring world equilibrium, and asserted that "the tendencies of the future world are dependent on the ideals and co-operative action of the two branches of the English-speaking race. You call us a good neighbor," he said, bantteringly. "In 14 years of trade between us, we have bought seven billion dollars' worth of goods. So, if purchase makes a good neighbor, there is the proof. You do not buy so much, not nearly so much from us, and you must buy more so the balance of trade won't be so much against us. Every good Canadian dollar has had a discount of 10 or 12 cents to you. We are such good neighbors we take yours at par. Your Congress at Washington recently took upon itself to impose the Fordney tariff. It put a barrier against agricultural imports which is prohibitive or requires some agility to overleap. So you put up a barrier on the very imports that would allow us to reduce the trade balances. You go to much trouble to expand trade on the Pacific and in South America. Our trade is yours without effort." Sir George's pointed references to exchange and tariff would naturally give the financiers some serious food for thought. May their neighborliness to a "good neighbor" take a more practical and equable turn, and in the near future.

National Railways' Deficit Decreasing

The improved financial showing of the Canadian National Railways for the past two or three months has received general and favorable comment throughout the country. Operating expenses have been brought down and earnings have increased. The Canadian National Railways, earlier in the year, informed the people of Canada, by a series of frank, explicit articles of some of its problems, and, in particular, of the pressing need of more traffic. The improvement in the relative position of the National lines has been accomplished, not only by the reductions of operating costs, but, also, through the co-operation of the public that realized the truth of the statements made and who have met the situation in a practical way. The taxpayers of Canada generally will be glad when the management is able to announce that the era of deficits has been finally reached.

The Young Man's Self-Advancement

We are all more or less imitators of others. For our profit, therefore we should look for help from those who have themselves fought life's battles. It is a good thing for a young man to keep a good book on biography on hand for reading when he finds himself getting lazy and self-satisfied. The story of a life that has struggled up through hardship and privation to splendid success, is a tonic that stimulates our ambition and makes it seem impossible to idle away our time. The majority of biographies are stimulating reading, because most people whose lives are worth writing have passed through some such evolution. Those who never have anything particular to overcome seldom do anything worth writing about and there are no books depicting their life's struggles and attainments. It is an excellent plan always to have a good volume on biography handy. Then when you find your indolent moods coming on, and you are not doing your best but the least possible, take it down and read a chapter or two. It is a bad case of laziness which will not promptly yield to this treatment.

New Provincial Police Plans

A forward and somewhat radical step in connection with Provincial Police organization has just been taken by the Ontario Government. The Council approved plans for the division of the province into eight districts and put through orders for the appointment of six of the eight district inspectors who will be in charge under the Commissioner of Police. The district in which this county is included is to be known as No. 4, and will include York, Simcoe, Ontario, Peel, Halton, Muskoka and Parry Sound, with headquarters at Toronto. The eight district inspectors will have jurisdiction over all Provincial officers in their territory, whether those engaged in general work or Ontario Temperance Act enforcement. When the plans that Gen. Elliott, Commisioner of Police, is working on have been completed, the force will be considerably larger than it has been for years, and a good deal of recruiting will have to be done to bring it up to the proposed strength. The result should facilitate very greatly the prompt administration of justice throughout the province, and an improvement in the general preservation of the peace.

Christmas Shopping Influences

The off-repeated exhortation to "Do your Christmas shopping early" has more in it than is perhaps casually realized. Early Christmas shopping is advantageous to the purchaser, from the standpoint of wider selections and better service, but it is a real kindness to the salespeople, who are almost "run off their feet" with the almost invariable rush which occurs the last few days before the twenty-fifth of December. The attempt to crowd the Christmas shopping into the last few days before Christmas is objectionable from every point of view. Buy early and post or ship early. Do all that you can to avoid the cruel overworking of the employees of the post offices and express companies, as well as the salespeople. But quite as important as shopping early is shopping pleasantly. Do not scold the clerk because the book you expect to buy for a dollar and a half costs you three dollars. She has nothing to do with setting the prices. Do not lose your temper because you cannot match a piece of ribbon or a skein of wool. It may be very important to match it, from your viewpoint, but the clerk is not to blame if she does not have in stock what you want. A good many saleswomen will tell you that they could put up with the tardy shopper, if it were not for the impatient shopper. If you cannot shop early, at least shop pleasantly. Everybody can do that. Try it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Six hundred and thirty candidates were placed in nomination last week for the 235 seats of the House of Commons. There are 211 Conservatives, 201 Liberals, 144 Farmer Progressives and 74 Labor and Independents. You take your ballot and make your choice next Tuesday.

Last week was Canadian authors' week through Canada, and book publishers and book sellers took special means to let the public learn what a galaxy of Canadian writers we have, and what these writers of to-day are doing. It is believed there were more books of Canadian authorship sold last week than in any previous week in Canada's history.

It speaks well for business conditions in Milton that there is not a vacant store in town. Not many towns the size and importance of Milton are in a position to make that boast.—Milton Reformer. Of course the Reformer intended to say: "Not many towns outside the County of Halton." At present not a town in Halton has an empty store.

The shoe manufacturer at Galt who labelled his good Canadian-made goods "made in United States," just to tickle the fancy of lady customers, can hardly be regarded as an ultra loyal Canadian. He belongs to the class of American cheesemakers who label their cheese "made in Canada" so as to command the highest prices in Europe.

This is the way Abraham Lincoln put the tariff problem: "I do not know much about the tariff, but I do know this much: when we buy goods abroad, we get the goods and the foreigner gets the money; when we buy goods at home, we get both the goods and the money." Naturally we profit most by buying "Made in Canada" goods.

MINNIE'S GOOD LUCK

"Minnie," said mamma one warm morning in June, "wouldn't you and Alice like to go out in the garden and put a stop to Mr. Rough Weed, who is trying to choke Mrs. Dainty Flower and crowd her out entirely?"

Minnie jumped up. "Why, yes, indeed," she said.

"And you must remember," continued mamma, "not to be like the queen in 'Alice' who said: 'Off with his head.' You must be very sure to pull Mr. Rough Weed's feet up, else he'll come right back and go on with bad behaviour worse than ever."

Minnie laughed. "Maybe we'll see the white rabbit. Come on, Alice."

Her sister rose rather reluctantly from where she was combing Lady Adelina's golden locks. "I think it's mighty hot," said she.

"There'll be some lemonade for you after while," said mamma.

Alice looked somewhat interested at this information. She followed Minnie, who was already at the foot of the steps. Mamma smiled as the two little girls disappeared. They were as much alike as twins could be, but she had no difficulty in telling them apart; that was because she was mamma.

Out in the garden the children worked steadily.

Suddenly Minnie exclaimed: "Oh, Alice, I've found a four-leaf clover!" And she held it up gleefully.

Alice examined it carefully. "It means good luck," she said slowly. "I heard Brother Jim say so."

"Then I'm glad I found it," said Minnie. And she pinned the little green clover carefully in the bosom of her frock.

After a little Alice yawned and laid aside her trowel. "I wonder if that lemonade isn't 'most ready," said she.

"Oh, we haven't been working long," said Minnie cheerfully.

"Well, I'm awful tired," returned Alice. "I believe I'll rest a little."

Minnie did not reply. The sun was warm, but she went on weeding valiantly. Presently she pushed her sunbonnet back and looked around for Alice, but the little girl was nowhere in sight. Minnie looked at the flower bed. There were a lot of weeds. She sighed. It seemed a shame to leave them. So she went on, pulling and tugging at the tough stalks, and presently she was astonished to see they were all gone. Mrs. Dainty Flower was holding up her head triumphantly.

Just then Minnie heard the honk of an automobile, and then somebody called gayly: "Hello, little sunbonnet girl. Want a ride?"

Minnie jumped up and ran to the gate. There in the road was Brother Jim with his brand-new car. "Come on, Pet," said he. "I'm in a big hurry to get some medicine for aunty, who isn't well. Want to go to town with me?"

"Oh, I'd love to. Can you wait for me to tell Alice?"

"Sorry, honey, but I can't wait. Aunt Bess has a bad headache, and I told her I'd hustle. Jump in."

It was a lovely ride to town, and Brother Jim told her such funny stories that Minnie was laughing all the time. And while the clerk prepared the powders Brother Jim let Minnie use the telephone all herself and tell mamma where she was, for "she might be scared." Minnie had said gravely when they started.

"I shouldn't wonder. I'd like to kidnap you myself for 'keeps,'" said the other, laughing.

Then when they were back in the car there was a box all tied with gold cord for Minnie.

"Oh, I'll give half to Alice," cried Minnie. "She truly ought to have more'n half, 'cause she didn't get any lovely ride."

They reached home in good time, and Minnie raced indoors, eager to tell her adventures.

Mamma was just coming in from the kitchen with a big pitcher of lemonade. "Just in time," she said.

At that moment Alice appeared. She looked very cross. "You had all that good luck 'cause you found that four-leaf clover. Wish I had seen it first."

"Well, you're going to have some of the good luck," cried Minnie. And she held up the pretty box of candy. "Only, I promised Brother Jim I would not open it till after dinner. You can have a lot then," she added.

She carefully unfastened the drooping little clover and showed it to mamma. "It brought me such nice luck, didn't it, mamma dear?"

Mamma stooped to kiss the happy little face. "I am not sure it was the four-leaf-clover," she said.

Minnie looked bewildered. "Why, mamma, what else could it be?"

But mamma only smiled.—S. L. Bacon.

A MILD-MANNERED SERGEANT

"How dar yex come on parade," remarked an Irish sergeant to a recruit, "smothered from head to foot in grease an' pipeclay? Answer me when I spake to yex."

The youngster was proceeding to invent some excuse when the sergeant stopped him short.

"Dare yex to answer me when I puts a question to yex? Hould yer lying tongue, and open yex face at yer peril. What sewer have yex been crawlin' through? Not a ward, or I'll clap yex in the guardroom! When I axes yex anything an' yex spakes I'll have yex tried for insolence to yer shuperior officer, but if yex don't answer when I question yex I'll have yer punished for disobedience of orders. So, be jabers, I'll have yex both ways.

CHEERFULNESS IS POWER

Cheerfulness is power, when you are learning to take the hopeful view, when you are training yourself to wake in the morning with a smile on your lips, you are making yourself a potential conqueror. Sourness and sadness are minus qualities. They subtract just as much from the reserve of power. They make it just so much harder to win.

The reason you find so many sour-faced, depressed people among the failures, is not, as you may have thought, because failure soups the disposition but because a sour nature predisposes to failure. Cultivate good cheer. Train yourself to take the optimistic view. Develop a poise that will be proof against small vexations irritations. For all these things mean power.

THE AGRICULTURAL MISSIONARY IN CHINA

The modern missionary no longer limits himself solely to evangelistic effort. In China, for instance, the agricultural missionary is to-day one of the greatest forces for good in the whole land. He helps establish model farms, he shows how to reforest barren hillsides, and how to provide plague-stricken communities with sanitary drinking water.

At the University of Nanking agricultural missionaries are carrying on experiments in mulberry production, the development of silk worms, the introduction of new kinds of cotton, wheat, rice, and corn. The most important thing for China at present is to learn how to feed her people and the agricultural missionary is pointing out how this may be done through the introduction of scientific farming.

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GEMS OF THOUGHT

Prayer carries us half-way to God, fasting brings us to the door of His palace, and alms-giving procures us admission.—Koran.

It has well been said that the arch-flatterer, with whom all petty flatterers have intelligence, is a man's self.—Bacon.

The saddest thing that can befall a soul is, when it loses faith in God and woman.—Alexander Smith.

A propensity to hope and joy is real riches; one to fear and sorrow, real poverty.—Hume.

To be a man's own fool is bad enough; but the vain man is everybody's.—Penn.

A fool always finds some greater fool to admire him.—Boileau.

Flowers are love's truest language.—Benjamin.

So grasping is dishonesty, that it has no respecter of persons; it will cheat friends as well as foes; and were it possible, would cheat even God himself.—Bancroft.

The heart that is soonest awake to the flowers is always the first to be touched by the thorns.—Moore.

God has two dwellings, one in heaven, and the other in a meek and thankful heart.—Izaak Walton.

They are the weakest-minded and the hardest-hearted men that most love change.—Ruskin.

There is as much greatness of mind in acknowledging a good turn, as in doing it.—Seneca.

Grace is to the body, what good sense is to the mind.—Rochefoucauld.

A grateful thought toward heaven is of itself a prayer.—Lessing.

GROWING TIMBER ON THE FARM

Timber is essentially a poor-land crop. Steep slopes, poor soil, rocky land, unusual corners, gullied and wooded tracts—all these afford opportunities for growing timber profitably. A careful survey of the average farm will reveal a surprising number of spots of this sort which can be utilized to advantage. If they do not already have trees, planting them with the proper varieties will materially increase the value of the land.

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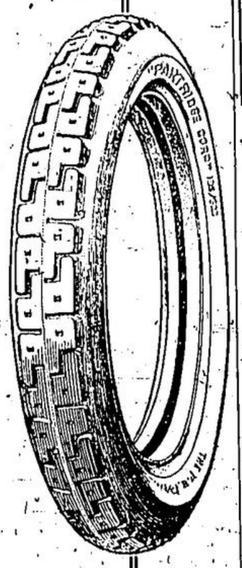

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