

The Acton Free Press

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THE ACTION FREE PRESS is published every Thursday morning at the office, Mill Street, Acton, Ontario. The subscription price is \$1 per year. The date to which subscription is current will appear on the address label.

ADVERTISING RATES—Travelling billboards, 10 cents per line; single measurement for first insertion and 5 cents per line for each insertion thereafter. Contract display advertisements for 10 lines or more per annum to be inserted till filled and charged accordingly.

Mr. P. MOORE, President and Editor.
G. A. DILLS, Manager and Assistant Editor.
TELEPHONE—
Editorial and Business Office

EDITORIAL

New Free-Press Co-Partnership
Since the retirement of Rev. T. Albert Moore from the partnership in the business of THE ACTON FREE PRESS in 1870, the responsibilities of management and editorial oversight have rested entirely with his brother, H. P. Moore. For these forty-three years the newspaper and the affiliated printing business have been conducted solely by the writer. The increased size of the Free Press with its added departments, and the constantly growing volume of business in the printing section, have become so heavy that relief from the strenuous position became necessary. With this in view the foreman of the office, Mr. G. A. Dills, has been admitted to partnership. The business will hereafter be carried on under the firm name of THE ACTON Free Press with H. P. Moore as President and Editor, and G. A. Dills, Manager and Assistant Editor. Mr. Dills came to the office as an apprentice thirteen years ago. By faithful service and painstaking effort he has amply qualified himself for the position of manager. Through his position as foreman the past four years he has become well acquainted with the business people and subscribers who favor the Free Press with their patronage, and has won their good will and confidence. Of this he is fully deserving, for his studied efforts have been to satisfy and please all with the productions he supervises, and to exercise uniform courtesy and faithful service to every customer. The new partnership will aim to give the public the best possible service, and will constantly endeavor to improve the Free Press, which we are proud to feel is now one of the best home papers published in the small towns of Canada. The continued patronage of the community for printing, advertising and subscriptions will be fully appreciated by the newly-formed management. We sincerely believe this will be realized, for it is an established fact that no other local newspaper in this country has a more loyal constituency than is enjoyed by THE ACTON Free Press.

Ontario Leaders Favor St. Lawrence Development
There is no uncertainty in the declaration of Premier Drury in his sympathy with the movement to deepen the River St. Lawrence and develop its latent water powers. In answer to a question in the Legislature the other day he said: "For many reasons navigation, power, and as the promoter of sound and good international relations, I regard with favor the development of the St. Lawrence. I hope to see the day when the thing shall be an accomplished fact." This expression appeared to find favor with all classes in the House; and a resolution will probably be passed favoring the proposal.

Lights on All Vehicles
Just why such strenuous opposition should be taken by the residents of the rural districts to the proposal of several automobile clubs in the Province that the Provincial authorities should compel all kinds of vehicles to carry 'lights' from dusk until sunrise is hard to understand. The proposal is one that would undoubtedly tend to ensure the greater safety of all concerned while driving on country roads. Few drivers of vehicles of any kind have not at some time experienced, through being ditched or mired, the need of the friendly rays of a lighted lamp. The cost of attaching a lamp to any vehicle is so small an item when placed against the advantages that would follow the general adoption of such a custom, that one is tempted to credit the opposition to that contrary twist in human nature that is "against the Government anyway."—Pembroke Journal.

Our National Railways
Is it not possible that as a country we have been looking at our national railway problem lately from too narrow a viewpoint? The fact that for several years the expenditures have exceeded the receipts has called up wholesale condemnation of Government ownership. It should be remembered that the development of the country has been greatly extended, and many new sections have been opened up for settlement. Due to the war some branch lines that were under construction in 1911, 1912, and 1913 have just recently been completed. If the new towns created and new communities established are considered, it will be readily seen that the value of a railway to a country like Canada cannot be measured by its net earnings. Its effect on the national welfare must be kept in mind. Canada now enjoys better transportation facilities and is in a much more favorable position than ever before to enter upon a period of intensive development.

The Advantages of the Small Town
Commenting on the decreased population in a number of towns and villages, shown by the Dominion census, the Toronto Star points out that many people who leave the towns for the cities find that "all is not gold that glitters" regarding their new conditions. "Many of the families which move into the cities," says the Star, "would be happier, and in the main, better off were they to remain in the small towns which they seem to be so anxious to leave behind. City wages must be weighed with city expenses. City advantages must be weighed with city disadvantages. The artificial life offered by the large centres of population is a lure to many. But the spacious lawns, the out-of-door life, the neighborliness, the simple pleasures, and the community interests of the small town are worth something after all. Depopulation of these centres is not a pleasing phase of the decennial census." Most of the people who have remained in the small towns, whether in business enterprises, or as working people, are immeasurably better off so far as the real comforts, and the spirit of friendliness and mutual helpfulness are concerned, than those who left the home town for the city's attractions.

Planting Trees on the Highways

Hon. Mr. Biggs is doing a great work for the future of Ontario by planting trees along the new highways under construction. If County Councils will follow his lead and plant trees along county roads, what a lovely province of roads this will be in less than a quarter of a century. But the lead is not alone for County Councils. There are Town Councils, and Town Councils. The systematic planting of trees and the care of them should be a part of the regular work of every municipal Council. It costs no little and returns are so great.—Almonte Gazette.

Playing Fair With the Towns

Canada's Department of Trade and Commerce has inaugurated a campaign to secure British industries for the Dominion. In that regard there is much to be achieved, but also much to be avoided. The big city view is that all industry should concentrate in the larger centres. From a national, or even a provincial, viewpoint, however, that is not a commendable policy. There are many fine towns with good railway connection and an adequate power supply which would make splendid industrial locations and whose young people would thus be kept from drifting to the big cities. These towns should get their share.—Toronto Star.

Dancing Parties Not Helpful to School Work

Reports from the different towns in Halton County, in which High Schools are located, go to show that hundreds of parents are objecting to dancing being allowed in these halls of learning. Mr. Ralph Ross, principal of Georgetown High School, has issued the following statement, which speaks for itself: "I think it fair to the management of the school that the public should know that the dance of a few of the boys have arranged, has been undertaken entirely against my wishes. Such an event is not in keeping with the kind of work High School should do, and our pupils cannot afford to have their attention take up in that way."

Canadians In New York

The Canadian Club in New York is the centre of activity for Canadians living in New York and vicinity, and its interest and relief activities among the veteran Canadian soldiers has been commendable. The officers are endeavoring to get in contact with Canadians in New York, not already members of the Club, and request that those having relatives or friends living in New York City and vicinity, or in New Jersey, communicate their names and addresses to the undersigned secretary in order that they may be invited to enjoy the privileges and advantages which the club affords. Address: Thomas D. Neelands, Chairman, The Canadian Club of New York, Pershing Square and 42nd Street, New York City.

University Course Available to Teachers

The University Extension Department of Toronto University has formulated a plan by which Public School teachers in Ontario who are ambitious proceed to an Arts degree without discontinuing their teaching may do so. The teachers' course has been recently expanded so as to allow for more options than have been practicable in the past. This expansion has been made possible because of the greatly increased number of teachers who are now taking advantage of the service which the Provincial University offers them. The standard of the course has not been lowered in any way—no teacher has ever asked for a course less difficult than that taken by students in regular attendance—but a great choice of subjects is now provided. A degree thus won extra-murally by the hard work necessary to a non-resident student, is just as worthy and of equally high standing as those conferred upon resident students taking the four years' course without any work outside the college.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Dominion Government has entered into negotiations with the Australian Government looking to preferential trade between Canada and Australia. This should be regarded with favor by our manufacturers in Canada.

The Provincial Government has thought better of the suggestion to impose a gasoline tax, and decided not to do it. There's wisdom in that decision. The members of the motor fraternity are surely paying their share of public taxes, already about \$2,000,000 in license fees.

Officially revised figures of census returns for the Dominion bring the total population to 8,769,480, as compared with 7,200,443 in 1911, an increase of 1,562,846. An increase of twenty-two per cent. in Canada's population in ten years is surely very creditable.

County Council should take advantage of the Government's offer to forestorate and plant trees in some of the waste places. They would set a good example to individual farmers. Canada needs trees to-day, and the next generation is going to need them a lot more than we need them.—Farmers' Sun.

The fight for the removal of the British embargo on Canadian cattle has been transferred from this side of the Atlantic to the other. It will be an issue in the coming British elections. It is noteworthy that many members of Parliament, who a few months ago opposed the removal of the embargo, have now changed their opinions and are strongly advocating its removal.

London is planning to pay her Aldermen a stated salary. Then come along the School Board saying they want the same treatment for doing the city's business. There are numerous other boards and commissions, all of whom will get a hand in the pie as soon as possible. The City Council has started a big ball rolling that will be hard to stop.—Guelph Mercury.

By-laws have been passed by the Guelph City Council providing for submitting to the ratepayers on March 27, the question of permitting the Hydro to run the street car tracks through St. George's Square, and whether they are in favor of electing the Mayor by general vote, instead of by the present system. There has been strong objection to the plan in vogue the past few years, of election of the Mayor by the Aldermen from among themselves.

How "THE MASTER" OUTWITTED HIMSELF

In stories that reflect the idiosyncrasies of the Irish character, the smile usually sets the better of the sight. Of this the following is hopefully instructive:

"An Irish gentleman of another garrison had put his head into an adjacent cabin, his employer was seated in the chair, and he might, more especially in the early morning, before any one was stirring. He determined, therefore, on a visit of maternal visita-

"The second door was ajar, and, as the master had been empty, cattle quietly grazing.

"He promptly drove the offending animal out of the room, and down the stairs to the village pound, and saw them securely shut in before returning, heavily increased, to breakfast.

"The master, who had been occupied in his family, "was last heard of in miles not troubling to mend my fence, and half the cattle in the yard allowed to trample in and out of my garden," he said.

"Please, Watt III, I find Master has been ill this morning," said the master.

"There was, however, no need to go in search of the delinquent, for before breakfast was ended a message was brought in that the master was with his son in the village pound late last night, and that he had got the master."

"What?" said the master.

"I'm sorry to have to tell it to you, but he began to complain, 'but there's still some of us cattle in the pound.' I put them in Birkman's late last night, and shut the gate on them again, and, as how they got 'em went straying."

"He sat not further, for the master, who had with difficulty restrained himself until then, beat a hasty retreat to the dining-room, where he collapsed on the sofa, and laughed until his family had reason of an impending swoopseizure."

"There forth he gave up his early inspection, and left the care of his property to his underlings."

THE TELEPHONE GIRL

Immediately after the roof of the Hotel Alexandra, Thirteenth in Washington, D. C., gave way under the weight of snow a man who was standing outside of the building went into a telephone booth and told "Central" what had happened.

"This is the Alexandra Hotel," he said. "This girl realized the situation and communicated the information to other members of the office force, and within ten minutes, seventy-two physicians in the City and the surrounding district where was located the theatre, were told of the disaster, every hospital and first aid agency in the city was notified, a report was made to the War Department, and to the State and government offices, and the work of rescue and of relief was almost instant."

In France the telephone girl proved herself a valuable asset during the war. She has proved it again before under other conditions of emergency and of peril. In Flanders, in Flanders, to ride the telephone girl has shown the value of her services.

We fear that we do not always remember those things in our daily communication with "Central." Some things beyond her control such as the fact that the telephone of a friend is broken, we want to tell her, and that perhaps we are given the wrong number when the fault lay not with the telephone girl's keenly attuned ear, but with our mumbly manner of speaking. We hope the inadequate tribute that we have paid her for a somewhat frequent use of hasty but really unmeaning words.—Chicago Evening Post.

NO BIRDS, NO FORESTS!

Insects are among the worst enemies of the human race. They destroy millions of dollars worth of farm crops annually. Canada, and particularly the forests in the forests, is also very heavy. The efforts of the Dominion Department of Agriculture and of the Royal Canadian Forestry Service of the Interior are making every possible effort to reduce the damage from this curse. So far as the general public is concerned, and this applies particularly to boys and girls, we hope they can give us a hand to protect the birds in some cases, in England owners have saved their planted forests by putting birdhouses and containing certain kinds of birds to some twelve varieties.

In Canada in the past insects have been kept in control by birds. If the birds are destroyed or driven away, the insects multiply extremely and the farms and the forests suffer. Crows are inveterate bird killers and cat owners both in the city and the country should be on the alert to prevent such destruction.

RIDDLES AND SUCH

What will turn without moving? Milk.

Why is an avaricious man like one with a short memory? Because he is always forgetting.

"Do you know, Miss Fanny, I believe I could sit and talk to you for ever!"

"Yes, I believe you could."

Cards: "Are you sure you will be able to support me dear?"

Merritt: "Why, yes. It's cheaper to marry than engaged."

Dinah: "How beautiful am I now moon-to-night! It fills me full ob delight."

Miss: "Yes, it looks dea-like a slice ob watermelon!"

A librarian says that some subversives are continually breaking into the book shop, and she has "written the book" that will let her catch them. "It's written by Crockett, or 'The Crockett Minister,'" by Stilcott.

TO GIVE PLANTS AN EARLY START

We have devised a scheme which we have used for several years on our farm and find it very successful. It is an arrangement for giving plants an early start in the spring.

A small crate, with a tight bottom, is made to receive a number of tin cans.

For these we remove the top, bottom, and sides, leaving a hole in the top, and a handle on the side.

This can be done by placing a can on the stove on its end until the heat melts the solder when a slight blow will break it off.

These cylinders are placed on end in the crate and filled with the soil desired.

The seeds are planted in them.

The contents are kept in the crate until the plants are ready to be set out in the garden soil.

One side of the crate lifts out of the bottom.

A flat piece of tin is then soldered over the cylinder which is then lifted out and set into the hole in the ground that has been prepared for it.

Dirt is then pressed in about the cylinder.

When this is lifted upward, leaving its contents in the soil, it will be best to keep its out-door growth. We have tried other schemes, but none were so convenient as this.—E. C. G.

THE BRAIN'S BALANCE-WHEEL

In stories that reflect the idiosyncrasies of the Irish character, the smile usually sets the better of the sight. Of this the following is hopefully instructive:

"An Irish gentleman of another garrison had put his head into an adjacent cabin, his employer was seated in the chair, and he might, more especially in the early morning, before any one was stirring. He determined, therefore, on a visit of maternal visita-

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THE DOCTOR'S REVENGE

A young doctor was summoned at a wireless in a case that demanded no technical evidence. The responding counsel was inclined to be sarcastic at the idea of so young a doctor being sent to him.

"You are familiar," he said, "with the symptoms of concussion of the brain?"

"Yes," replied the doctor.

"I'll speak with myself out,

and, hanged our heads together.

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