

**The Acton Free Press**

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H. K. MORRISON, President and Editor.  
A. H. DILLON, Manager and Assistant Editor.

TELEPHONE—  
Editorial and Business Office 117  
Residence of President 115

THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 14, 1922

**EDITORIAL**

**The Politics of the Future**

Mr. Hammell's defection is only another indication that, in spite of Mr. J. J. Morrison's somewhat heated protestation that group government has come to stay, the country is returning to the two-party system, and the Farmers' party is breaking up into its original component parts—Orillia Packet, Two-party system, perhaps, but not necessarily the Grit and Tory parties as they are now or have been constituted.

**The Government's Policy for Immigration**

Aggressive publicity in Great Britain and the United States, and gradually extended into the Scandinavian countries, Holland, Belgium and France, supported by an effective follow-up agency, is to be the policy of the Dominion Government during the coming season. Special efforts will also be made toward the repatriation of ex-Canadians now in the United States, the securing of female domestic workers, and the encouragement of immigration of children from Great Britain. If this policy is judiciously administered it should mean the securing of desirable emigrants to add to our population.

**Ireland Under British Rule**

Ireland entered into the British Empire last week under the title of the Irish Free State, occupying the same relation to Great Britain as the Dominion of Canada. If Northern Ireland remains apart, it will be her own choice. Sir James Craig, the Premier, states that "Five years from now, if the southern government proves loyal and capable, Ulster will probably consider a plan to go under the banner of the Irish Free State also." With this accomplished it is believed by many that Ireland's future will be characterized with great success. A united Ireland means one of the finest, most progressive countries of the empire.

**Build Up Character; Let Reputation Follow**

It is evidence of weakness in young people's make-up when they boast that if their consciences do not trouble them they do not care what is said about them. Character and reputation are not synonymous, for character is what we are and reputation is what we are thought to be. To value reputation above, or even as highly as character, means putting appearances above or equal to reality. And yet to be indifferent to our reputation is also foolish, for our reputation is the world's interpretation of our character. It may be mistaken, but while an honest man whose neighbors accuse him of being a thief, may congratulate himself on their being mistaken, until they correct their estimate of him, he cannot be regarded as fortunate. Better have a bad reputation than a bad character; but better still, have a reputation to match your character.

**Eliminating Ontario's Race Track Gambling Enterprises**

The Provincial Government raze-off on race track meets in Ontario promises to accomplish what the Dominion Parliament refuses to do, namely, to stamp out the evil of race track gambling. The five per cent tax on pari-mutuel machines netted the province more than \$550,000, and the fact that the Ontario Jockey Club's revenue was considerably reduced this year has led President Hendrie to hint at the possibility of a cancellation of several of the usual race meets next spring—Simco Reformer. A good many of the people of Ontario greatly disliked the idea of going into partnership with the race track gambling business, by accepting the five per cent. fee. If, however, the elimination of the business is accomplished by this means there will be some excuse for the method employed. The sincerity, or lack of it, of the claims of the racing advocates that the race meetings are necessary to maintain the standard of light horses in Ontario, is now becoming manifest. If the exacting of a tax of five per cent. on the money wagered on races is sufficient to cause the cancellation of the usual race meets next spring, then the anxiety of the men who operate the race meets for the maintenance of the standard of Ontario-bred horses is rather seriously discounted. Nine-tenths of the thinking people of Ontario will be glad to see this Province rid of the race meets, which bring all the gambling fraternity of the continent to the scene of their activities, and which, even during the present year, resulted in the ruin of scores of young men and women of Ontario. The adjacent states of New York and Michigan legislated race meets out of existence because of their evil influences, why under the sun should our Province perpetuate them?

**Hon. Mr. Raney in East Wellington**

Hon. W. E. Raney, Attorney-General, who addressed a large audience of his constituents in the armory at Ferguson last Wednesday evening, stated that when election time came he was ready to take his chances again in East Wellington. This constituency is proud of their able representative; they endorse his courageous administration of the matters for which the Attorney-General's Department is responsible and are ready to support him at the next election.

**Where the Responsibility Really Lies**

If some of our real good men and women, some of our critical fathers and mothers, would take the trouble to observe how hopelessly factors many young lads are in the long evenings, as they wander about the streets, or congregate here and there where there is a friendly light, and a welcome, perhaps they would bestir themselves to provide a recreation room or gymnasium for them where they could meet, enjoy friendly games or sport, be under good influence, and parents know they were not under evil influence. The responsibility of the going astray of a young lad in this community rests on the shoulders, if not on the conscience, of the older citizens. And the boys, who are the victims of this pernicious habit, and dwarfed view of life, are to be pitied more than blamed.—Winchester Press.

**Canada's Great Grain Crop**

Up to date this year the quantity of grain loaded in Western Canada is greater than in any previous year. One of the railroads reported that, up to November 20, 70,305 cars had been loaded, as compared with 53,402 in 1921 and 60,057 in 1915, the previous record year. The movement of so large a volume of grain to Port Arthur and Port Arthur necessitates provision for extra storage at these lake ports as soon as navigation closes; and to meet the contingency which has arisen this year, the Canadian coasting regulations will be modified by the Dominion Government to give other than Canadian vessels the privilege of loading and discharging cargoes at lake ports during the winter and early spring. The Government is certainly justified in making this modification.

**Raising Funds to Aid Northern Fire Sufferers**

The Wellington County Council, in session at Guelph last week, declined to make a grant toward the fund for the relief of the Northern Ontario fire sufferers. The Council took the stand that, as the municipalities had all contributed to the fund, both in cash and in clothing, anything further should come from the Ontario or Dominion Government. This view is shared by many people of Old Ontario, whose sympathies for the stricken people in the north are quite sincere. Not only have the municipalities already contributed cash and clothing through that medium, but many of the same people have contributed generously toward the same object through their respective churches. The further needed help would be much more equitably contributed by the Provincial and Dominion Governments.

**No Political Interference with the New Canadian National Railways' President**

Sir Henry Thornton, the new President and General Manager of the Canadian National Railways, is defining his position very clearly at the outset of his administration in relation to political matters. The first declaration of the new President was made at a banquet given in his honor by the Montreal Board of Trade. There Sir Henry made a very good impression upon the large number of prominent men present. One of the important matters dealt with in his speech was that of political interference with the management of the system. "Let it be emphatically understood, once and for all," Sir Henry stated, "that there is to be no political interference, direct or indirect, in the administration and working of the Canadian National Railways. I cannot put it any more forcibly without transgressing the rules of polite speech, and if I knew of any words which would make this point more clear I would unhesitatingly employ them. The Prime Minister has solemnly assured me that there is to be no political interference and it was with this distinct understanding that I accepted the post which the Government has done me the honor to offer. This assurance is the only assurance that any Government, irrespective of political complexion, would be compelled to make under similar circumstances. It is vital to the success of our railways, and any other procedure spells inevitable disaster."

**EDITORIAL NOTES**

Reeve Barber, of Acton, has been re-elected to that position for 1923. This will give him a chance for the Wardenship of the County next January, when the County Council meets.—Milton Reformer.

Premier Bonar Law, the new British premier, is finding Lloyd George's job no sinecure. The Kingston Whig says that after he has held it down for a while he will begin to think he should have run as the representative of labor.

Georgetown Council proposes to give every ratepayer an opportunity of contributing to the proposed Soldiers' Memorial for the town. A by-law to raise \$8,000.00 for this purpose will be submitted at the municipal elections on New Year's Day.

There is widespread opposition to the Adolescent School Act, the most drastic provisions of which went into force a few months ago. It is evident there will require to be considerable modification to the Act if it is ever to be made reasonably workable.

With returns from five by-elections held last week the Government has no reason to feel apprehensive as to the results. Four of the vacancies returned Government candidates—three of them by acclamation—and the fifth, Lanark, reduced the Conservative majority from 2,635 in 1921 to 1,350 in 1922.

What is regarded as a reflection of the improving business conditions throughout Canada is the steadily mounting receipts of the Post Office Department. Indications are that by the end of the present fiscal year, the Department will have a surplus of \$1,000,000. The time would, therefore, seem to be opportune to return to the two-cent rate for letter postage.

**MINERS' LUCK**

Yukon seems to have been blessed among the "hot water" provinces. From the gold mines and the diamond fields come many strange stories that illustrate the uncertainty of fortune. California, the Yukon, South Africa, all have their share of tales of extraordinary finds and losses, but from New Guinea comes one of the most remarkable. On many of the islands of the New Guinea group is found, at one time, says Capt. C. A. W. Mosekott, in his book, "Home Experiences of a New Guinea Expedition," a mineral which is called "black gold" and is found in the form of a small, dark, lustrous mineral. It is called "black gold" because it is so valuable. It is found in the form of a small, dark, lustrous mineral. It is called "black gold" because it is so valuable. It is found in the form of a small, dark, lustrous mineral. It is called "black gold" because it is so valuable.

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