

THE HOME OF
The Acton Free Press
Member Canadian Weekly Newspaper
Member Selected Towns' Weeklies of Ontario

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THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 5, 1923

EDITORIAL

France to Advertise Canada's Resources

It is evident that France appreciated highly Canada's valuable assistance during the war, and is now anxious to familiarize the people of that country with the resources of our country. The Senate of France last week unanimously adopted a bill for the appropriation of 4,000,000 francs for a Canadian travelling exposition in France. The Chamber of Deputies recently adopted the bill. The exhibition, which is to be held this year, is for the purpose of advertising Canada's manufactures and natural resources by means of motor cars, which will tour the principal districts of France.

Just a Matter of 4,000 per cent. False in His Statement

The Moderation League is certainly not moderate in the use of false statements by its advocates. At a meeting in Toronto last week Mr. Joseph Archambault, M. P.—a member of Parliament, note you made the statement that Manitoba, under prohibition, consumed 510,993 gallons of liquor, costing \$12,283,912, only two million dollars less than Quebec, the wet province of the east. This lie was exploded last summer by J. N. McLean, Chief Inspector of Manitoba, who showed that only 18,105 gallons of liquor was sold in Manitoba last year, at a cost of \$201,084. The member of Parliament moderation advocate must have known the lie he uttered was refuted months ago. It evidently suits the advocates of liquor to reiterate falsehoods, because it serves their purpose better, and truth is always a testimony against their false position.

Provincial Grants to Public Schools

School Trustees, and the ratepayers who take an interest in the proper support of the Public Schools, are thinking seriously these days of the methods of the Department of Education in distributing the grants to schools. Many feel that there is too great a spread between the ratio of distribution between the rural and urban schools. The Government's appropriation for educational purposes is nearly ten millions of dollars. To be accurate, last year it was \$9,885,279. Of this amount rural schools obtained \$1,537,753 and urban schools \$190,000. The urban population, which is 54 per cent of the total, is receiving only 10 per cent of the Public School grant, while the rural population, which is 42 per cent of the population, is getting 84 per cent of the grant. Cities and towns are assessed to between 65 and 90 per cent of their actual selling price, yet the rural schools are receiving eight times as much as the urban schools. An increased burden has been added to urban schools by the Adolescent School Attendance Act. Provision for more accommodation is entailing a heavy increase in school debenture debts. Taxes are higher in every way in towns and cities compared with the country districts and many think there is no tenable reason why all municipalities should not be placed on the same basis and receive grants for education purposes in proportion to the assessment and population.

Canada: a Country Worth Living in

Just now, when the average citizen is worrying his brains in the effort at preparation of an honest Income Tax Report, to satisfy the finance department of the Dominion, people are somewhat given to complaining of the number and amount of the taxes now being imposed, it will be a salutary employment to compare the position of Canadians in this regard with any other country. Figures given in The Journal of Commerce show that Canada has the smallest per capita debt, as well as the largest per capita bank deposits of any of the countries engaged in the recent war. While it is true that all these countries have doubled, tripled and quadrupled their debts, Canada makes a very favorable showing in comparison with other nations. Before the war our national debt was \$500,000,000; now it is \$1,500,000,000. The per capita debt of the Dominion, however, is only approximately \$165 as compared with \$230 for the United States, \$750 for Great Britain, \$850 for France and \$280 for Australia. The population of Australia is less than two-thirds that of Canada, yet its national debt is about the same as that of the Dominion. Great Britain, with a population also times that of Canada, has a national debt nearly twenty-five times that of ours. Canada is a young country with undeveloped resources beyond all calculation and the future holds a bright prospect for us, if our people will loyally, courageously and hopefully stand by her interests. Canada is a country worth our patriotism and confidence.

Shall We Have Penny Postage in Canada Again?

It was hinted the other day that there is a possibility of two-cent letter postage being restored in the forthcoming budget. There is a strong feeling throughout the Dominion in favor of the return to the 2c rate of postage, and it is felt that such a step would result in general advantage to the country, and would be followed by satisfactory financial results to the Government. The experience of Sir Wm. Mulock, who was Postmaster-General when the 2c rate was adopted in 1897, was that the reduction in rate increased the postal revenue instead of decreasing it. This rate remained in effect until 1915, when war needs caused the Government to return to the three-cent rate.

Government Ownership of Railways Beginning to Show Satisfactory Results

The very substantial decrease of \$12,000,000 in the deficit of the National Railways in 1922, compared with 1921, was the satisfactory and encouraging statement of the Hon. G. P. Graham, Acting Minister of Railways, in the House of Commons. The operating deficits on the National lines, exclusive of the Grand Trunk, which earned a substantial operating surplus, were reduced from \$21,000,000 to \$10,000,000, and the total improvement for the year is \$12,410,000. With many changes and reductions in operating expenses proposed by the new manager, it looks as if the Government ownership of railways will give better results to the country than the former plan of subsidies.

Support Your Local Newspaper

The local or county newspaper is an institution of prime importance in the development of our great Dominion. The local paper serves as the "magnifying glass" of that fortunate majority which lives outside of our congested metropolitan districts. It helps largely to develop and encourage the community spirit without which co-ordinated progress is impossible. Its strength as a newspaper lies in its intimate knowledge of local conditions, local aspirations, local personalities and local incidents. It has established a contact with its constituency which has no parallel amongst the great daily newspapers or the journals of national circulation. The local weekly newspaper is in a class by itself. In order that the local newspapers of Canada may function as virile influence in the progress and well-being of their respective communities, they need and deserve the active support of all good citizens.—Family Herald and Weekly Star.

EDITORIAL NOTES

There is a strong possibility that a return to two-cent postage may be one of the features of Mr. Fielding's budget. The Finance Minister could not do a more popular thing, and if he sees it is warranted he will do it without hesitation.

"I can look any man in the face now and without a blush, tell him I am in the hotel business," a well-known hotel man said the other day. "Once I could not do that. No, you will never see bars in Ontario again; they are gone."—Canadian Baptist.

The "higher-ups" are getting their inning now, and none too soon. The Ontario Wine Company, of Toronto, was fined \$2,000 on Thursday for violation of Section 40 of the Ontario Temperance Act at North Bay. In other words they sold liquor unlawfully.

"Sugar gamblers are responsible for the rise in the price of sugar." This is the bold statement of former Assistant Secretary of Commerce Claudius H. Huston, of the United States. There is an ample supply of sugar, and it is believed that present prices are due soon to drop.

A Manitoba legislator has proposed that vendors of poisonous liquor shall be liable to a sentence of life imprisonment. Such a law would soon put a brake on the moonshine business. Much of the illicit liquor now sold is poisonous; men's lives are being sacrificed by it. Life imprisonment would be a real deterrent.

Another weekly newspaper has discontinued, the News-Argus of Stirling in Hastings county. Mr. A. R. Alloway, late of the Ottawa Reformer, recently purchased the paper, which has now absorbed its competitor. If a first-class paper can be conducted in a town of 1,000 population Mr. Alloway is the journalist who can accomplish the feat.

Freight on a ton of coal from Edmonton to Toronto is stated by a Western coal company to be \$1.12½ per cwt., as compared with 82½ cents for wheat. Why should there be such a difference? If Western coal could be carried to Ontario as cheaply as wheat, it would prove an important factor in solving Ontario's fuel problem.—Barrie Examiner.

The value of railroads in securing settlers for a new district is well demonstrated in the Abitibi section in New Ontario. Since the opening of the Transcontinental Railway a little over six years ago, in the Abitibi district, where there was only a silent forest then, there are now over 15,000 new settlers, who last year raised \$1,000,000 worth of agricultural products and have made sawn lumber and pulpwood in clearing their homes to the value of \$2,000,000 more.

Messrs. Nickle and Henry, the Conservative members who went to Fergus last week to stir up the faithful in Hon. W. E. Roney's constituency, evidently failed to create much excitement. When he returned to the city Hon. Mr. Nickle was asked about the meeting. He replied: "The audience consisted of about two hundred farmers, who sat there and never said a word, so that you couldn't tell what they were thinking about." They were evidently thinking of the satisfaction they have in having Hon. W. E. Roney, Attorney-General, as their representative.

A dispatch from Milton on Monday said: "Nearly every member of the County Council was of the opinion that there should be one big Central Fall Fair at Milton, the county town, and do away with all the other fairs in the county. Such a move, they stated, would save much time and money for all concerned." That would be very nice indeed for Milton. It is quite certain, however, that Oakville and Acton will not agree to such a proposal. And it is just as certain that the Oakville and Acton members of the County Council were not of the opinion expressed in the dispatch.

Neighborhood News—Town and Country

ROCKWOOD

The Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church presented Mrs. Tyndall Lundy with a life membership certificate and a gold watch.

The choir of the Methodist Church under the leadership of Mrs. E. Plummer, presented a very fine Easter service.

Miss Minnie Hooking visited friends in Hamilton last week.

Mr. A. K. Thomas has been elected a School Trustee to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. J. W. Knowles.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Meadows, of Hamilton, visited relatives here last week.

The death of Mr. John Holes, of the furniture business, removed a esteemed resident of the township. He was in his 74th year.

MILTON

No new pupils will be admitted to the primary rooms in the Public School until the 1st of September.

The Church has ordered a new choir organ for the church, to be installed in the new choir loft.

Miss E. M. M. is taking a trip to Atlantic City during her holidays.

Mrs. P. D. Shurey and son, John, are spending the week at Niagara Falls, N. Y., visiting her son there.

Home of our Public and High School teachers are taking in the O. E. A. at Toronto.

Mrs. Hutterway has resigned her position as matron of the Gordon Home and has gone to Hamilton, where she will be Miss Telfer's successor.

J. W. Smith has sold his residence, 1111 and Court Streets, to C. R. Omond. Elmer Downs has bought that of W. Shields, Mary Street, and John Milton that of Elmer Downs, Commercial Street.

The annual meeting of the Milton Bowling Club was held last week. Officers were elected as follows: Hon. President, Judge Elliot; President, E. H. Graham; Vice-President, J. M. Denys; Secretary, T. J. Brown; Treasurer, D. Crawford. The building of the new clubhouse will be completed by July 11.—Champion.

GEORGETOWN

On Friday evening the citizens heard the honor and privilege of hearing Judge Mott, of the Juvenile Court, Toronto. His talk was a delightful one. He is a fluent, off-hand speaker who mingles the serious and humorous and appeals to intellect and heart.

Mrs. J. N. O'Neill is spending a couple of weeks at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Eric Shaker, Detroit.

Mrs. Hook, who has been at Mr. E. Sturman's for some time, has returned to her home in Grimsby.

Miss Gladys Bridge and Ella Blythe are visiting the former's sister and brother at Markdale.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Silvertown and family will leave this week for their new home in Meaford, where Mr. Silvertown has purchased the Star Theatre.

Tax reduction is the new fashion in municipal politics, but it looks as if Georgetown would be out of the fashion this year.

A largely attended and enthusiastic meeting in the town hall last Thursday evening, an Indoor Baseball League was organized and the following officers elected: President, J. M. Denys; Vice-President, W. V. Grant; Secretary, T. J. Thompson.

Miss Agnes, of Georgetown, was Milton's representative on the Women's Institute delegation from Ontario of eight that visited on the Provincial Government at Toronto last Thursday, asking the Government to adopt vigorous measures for the amelioration of the condition of the feeble-minded in Ontario.—Herald.

BURLINGTON

The Burlington Dramatic Club will present the popular comedy, "Charlie's Aunt," about the middle of April.

Mr. W. C. Campbell has commenced the erection of a new store next to Garthman's meat market.

Hicks & Bamford, general merchants, have sold their business to Mr. R. S. Thompson of Toronto.

Yvonne Ju Ju, a Japanese opera, in three acts, will be presented by the Methodist Church choir in the town hall on Friday, April 6.

The Baptist Sunday School will give a concert and social in the library on Monday, April 8.

The executive committee of the Home and School Association met on Monday evening and made arrangements for the concert which will be held in the town hall on April 13.

THE AGE OF BIRDS

Some birds live to a great age. The age of 90 is known to have been reached by a gray parrot, and there are many statements of birds of the parrot family having lived for over a century. The raven also is credited with having reached a 100 years. A recent investigation into the subject of the long life of birds shows that with the exception of the raven, or worm-eating bird, are the longest lived. The exception is the swan. The average ages of some of the best known birds are given in the following list: Blackbird (10 to 12 years); Mockingbird (10 years); Canary (24 years); Crow (100); Eagle (100); Owl (common), 10; Goldfinch, 12; Goose, 50; Heron, 50; Hawk, 12; Kingbird, 20; Nighthawk, 18; Partridge, 15; Peacock, 24; Pelican, 60; Pheasant, 15; Pigeon, 20; Raven, 100; Robin, 12; Woodcock, 20; Starling, 10; Swan, 100; Thrush, 10; and Wren, 3 years.

ALL ABOARD

Home sailors went ashore and as a change thought they would like to go for a ride on horseback. They went to the nearest livery stable, and the spokesman asked for the stable. Spokesman—"We want an 'overs'." Owner—"What kind of an 'overs'?" Spokesman—"We want a four-legged 'overs'."

Owner (amused)—"You'll know that, but 'dare' want a 'overs' or a 'overs'?" Spokesman—"Oh, it don't matter about that, 'dare' give us a pretty long 'overs'—the sight of us and we're all going 'aboard'."

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