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H. P. MOORE, President and Editor.
G. A. DILLS, Manager and Assistant Editor.

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THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 9, 1923

EDITORIAL

The Press and the Former Residents

The local newspaper is more closely linked to the life of the community than any other business institution. Hardly a former resident who came to the Jubilee Celebration of the old home town during the week but is a regular reader of THE FREE PRESS. This journal has chronicled Acton's history for our former residents every week, and their return to the scenes of former days is much enjoyed, and itself constitutes one of the leading items of local news for a long time. Acton's greeting was cordial and characteristic.

Canada Mourns with Her Sister Nation

The sudden death of President Harding brought great sorrow to the United States through the loss of their esteemed chief executive. Because of his quiet, dignified, conscientious administration of the affairs of the great nation which chose him as their leader, President Harding was greatly admired and sincerely liked by our Canadian people. In fact, he was respected the world over. His happy references to Canada as a good neighbor, during his visit a few weeks ago, at Vancouver, won for him high regard from the people of this country. President Harding was a great man. His sane wholesome intelligent view of public affairs, and his quiet unassuming manner convinced the people that he was an eminently safe executive. Canada mourns with the United States in the great loss that country has sustained.

War's Dreadful Toll in Human Misery

The fearful toll of the war in the way of crippled men has been summarized by the experts who are now in Geneva to attend the conference, summoned by the International Labor Bureau to study the question of the employment of war cripples, and have received a report giving an estimate of the number of war cripples receiving pension. The figures are: Germany, 1,547,000; Australia, 75,000; Austria, 164,000; Belgium, 50,000; Canada, 45,000; United States, 157,000; Finland, 10,000; France, 1,500,000; Great Britain, 1,170,000; Italy, 1,000,000; Poland, 320,000; Rumania, 100,000; Jugoslavia, 164,000; Russia, 775,000; Czechoslovakia, 236,000; New Zealand, 20,000. To this total of 7,334,000 pensioned war cripples should be added all those of Turkey, Bulgaria, Portugal, Hungary and Japan and the Baltic States, so that the estimated grand total is over ten millions.

The Jubilee Celebration

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of Acton, and the home-coming of so many former residents and native-born sons and daughters during the week, was a happy combination. The three days devoted to this, with their many happy incidents and experiences, will long live in cherished memory, both by the home-comers and visitors and by our citizens, whose welcome was cordial and unmistakably sincere. The reunion of friends who had been separated for years was thoroughly enjoyable and full of sustained interest. The programme provided for the three days' by the Citizens' Committee was a succession of features at once interesting, amusing, enjoyable and creditable. One feature which called forth much favorable comment was the prominent place given to Sunday's services, and the reverent and worshipful character of the programme of the day. The attendance at old home churches in the morning was an event memorable in itself; the social Sunday afternoon intercourse of home-comers and visitors with residents of the community was in many respects a benediction; the fine spirit manifested at the union service of the congregations of our five churches in the evening, with the massed choir, the pastors' welcome, the spiritual addresses, the hearty singing of the great united congregation, and the splendid sacred concert by the band at eventide, was a profitable and happy manifestation of the friendly community spirit which obtains. Everybody who came home expressed the greatest pleasure at the good time they had experienced and they went away sorry that they were obliged to leave so soon. It has done us all good. We have renewed old friendships. We have imbued our sons and daughters and former residents with a love for home that might have imperceptibly waned. Young men and women who were here for the first time have gone back with big ideas of dad and mother's home town. They will always be interested in us because of their visit. Yes, we have gained, because we have made new friends and impressed old ones that the dear old town has a warm place for them in their hearts always. It was a fitting celebration of the important historical epoch of Acton's half a century as a incorporated municipality.

Liquor from Canada to the United States

Roy A. Haynes, chief American prohibition Commissioner, takes rather a cheerful view of what has been accomplished in preventing the flow of liquor from Canada into the United States. He admits that it was a tremendous task to stop the flood along the frontier of three thousand miles, but asserts that the flow is merely a trickle now. Only at a few spots is there any considerable traffic in the forbidden beverage; elsewhere aridity reigns. He suggests that much of the talk about liquor flowing freely from Canada is propaganda put forth by bootleggers who are really selling their customers their own moonshine but wish their customers to believe that they are getting the "real stuff" from Canada.—Mail and Empire.

Motor Accidents Through Motorists' Foolhardiness

In many cases, accidents to motors at highway crossings over railways are due to the culpable negligence or foolhardiness of those driving cars. This is to be found both at unprotected and protected crossings. The Grand Trunk lines from October 1922, to May 9, 1923, show 54 cases where there was deaths at protected crossings due to the negligence of those using the crossings. All but four of these cases were due to the carelessness of motor drivers. Notwithstanding safety devices and cautionary signals, people take chances and disregard safety. Motor accidents are becoming more frequent. Every sane motorist deplores this. If accidents are to be lessened, the sane motorist must educate the culpably negligent motorists.

A Highway Pavement 28 Years Old

That an asphaltic concrete pavement is highly satisfactory in a hot country is evidenced by a contract recently let by the City of Visalia, Cal., for paving its streets with asphaltic concrete base and surface. Visalia put down probably the oldest asphaltic concrete pavement in California. This was laid on Main Street in that city twenty-eight years ago. There has been no maintenance cost in all that time and it is still in excellent condition. Another contract was let by Visalia in 1895 with the same material, partly on Main Street and partly on adjacent streets. The next paving done by the city was in 1910, on one of the principal travelled streets. Construction of this character is worthy of a trial in Ontario where road building is being so largely experimented with.

Divorces Not Popular in Canada

To the credit of our country be it said, our divorce courts are practically idle. Marriages in Canada are successful, and families still are loyal to the "till death do us part" tradition. Divorces granted in the Dominion numbered only 544 in 1922, or two-thirds of one per cent. of all the marriages contracted, according to a report just compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Based on population, the report shows, divorces numbered seven to every 100,000 persons. Divorces in the United States, according to official figures for the last year on record, numbered 112 to every 100,000 people. "The 1922 figures," says the report, "probably indicate that the wave of divorce due to the war has reached its highest point and is now on the decline. Total decrees granted last year showed a reduction of four compared with 1921. The remarkably low per cent. of divorces shows the stability of Canadian homes and institutions."

Keeping the Streets Clean and Tidy

The extra work by Council and citizens during the past week in clearing up the streets was worth while. The comments of visitors and home-comers was heard everywhere concerning the neat, tidy and attractive aspect of Acton's strets, homes and home-surroundings. Our town has always been noted for these features, but the extra work and more careful attention gave an added attractiveness. Why not keep this bit of extra work up from week to week and sustain a reputation for the tidiest town on the new Toronto to Sarnia Provincial Highway. Burlington has adopted a very good plan with its new cement pavement. The Gazette of last week said: "Arrangements have been made to sweep the pavement on Brant Street in the business section every morning at 8.30, and the business men are kindly asked to help out the situation by having their walks swept off every morning by that time, so that the refuse can be gathered up." A spirit of co-operation such as that suggested will be beneficial to any town. Let us have it here.

EDITORIAL NOTES

If anybody is out of luck it is generally the farmer. With the biggest crop on record in sight, he does not know where he is going to get the help to harvest it, the facilities to transport it to market, or a decent price for it when he gets it there.—Georgetown Herald.

It is a very current opinion that in view of the fact that the first step toward the commission of many desperate crimes is the theft of a motor car, therefore it might be well that this sort of theft should be more severely punished than any other offence against the Motor Vehicles' Act.

At present the Canadian people have $1,837,000,000 invested in Dominion of Canada bonds. Their demand deposits in the chartered banks of Canada total $537,340,000. Their notice deposits (savings) total $1,227,253,431. Canada's international trade is the greatest it has ever reached, and the national revenue is the highest in the country's history. Our country is certainly not "going to the dogs" just now.

Forty-three years ago W. H. Kerr became proprietor of the Brussels Post. During all the intervening years Mr. Kerr has guided the destinies of this worthy local paper. The town of Brussels has greatly profitted from the constant advocacy of its interest by the Post. In his editorial management Mr. Kerr has manifested a unique aptitude in his editorial comment, and as a result the Post is freely quoted throughout the Dominion.

The sales tax is certainly doing its bit in meeting the costs of the war. There was an increase of over seventeen million dollars in the customs and excise revenue of the Dominion for the four months of the current fiscal year, which ended July 31, according to returns available at the Department in Ottawa. For the month of July alone the increase over last July was over three millions. The largest part of the increase is in the revenue from the sales tax and other excise taxes.

SMALL TOWN STUFF

The small town has been the butt of the cheap humorist ever since the somewhat larger town came into existence.

A small town is any town smaller than the town in which the humorist resides. If he lives in a town of 1,000, a town of 500 is a joke. If he lives in a town of 5,000, any town of 1,000 is a joke, and so on up. Of course, New Yorkers think that all other towns are jokes.

They call small towns by witty names—tank towns, hick towns, towns in the sticks, towns on the bowl-and-pitcher circuit.

Small towns do not have scandals, jazz orchestras, gun men, floating indebtedness or traffic problems.

A man can park his car in front of his place of business and leave it there for a week, if he so desires.

On a hot day he can take off his coat and walk down the main street without losing public esteem.

In a small town bluff doesn't get him anywhere. People like him for what he is, not what he pretends to be. He lives too close to his fellow man to be other than his real self.

In a small town there are neighbors who whirl in and help in case of sickness, who like you just as well in your old clothes as in your new clothes, who put on no airs and make no pretensions.

In a city a young man may take his girl to a theatre, then to a jazz palace, and then, via taxicab, back home, all at a cost of $25.

In a small town a young man can take his girl to the movies, stop at the ice cream parlor, and be home and sitting in his girl's porch swing by 9.30 p. m., have spent fifty cents and had all the fun the town afforded.

In a city a man spends at least one-third of his time putting up a front, in order to impress other people who are doing the same thing.

In the small town a man mows his own lawn, raises his own garden truck, is on speaking terms with both the preacher and the banker, and can sit on his front porch Sunday afternoons in his stocking feet if he wants to, and people will think just as much of him.

City folks sneer at small towns because they are envious.

A SILO FOR CHICKENS

A supply of green feed for laying hens in winter is sometimes hard to get; but if winter eggs are to be expected, there must be a green ration fed along with other feeds.

For a number of years I gathered green material during the summer months, and dried it for winter use. This plan was very successful, but last winter I tried a different plan—a poultry silo in which I kept my green ration in its natural state. Old barrels were used for the silos.

First, I make an opening about four inches above the base of the barrel, to get at the silage. The opening is then fitted with a flap that fits snugly, and can be closed after each feeding. A hole is then bored in the bottom of the barrel to drain off excess fluid. The silo is then ready for filling.

I used green feed of all descriptions, such as clover, grass from the lawn, beet-tops, cabbage leaves—in fact, almost anything that a chicken would eat. After the barrel was filled, a lid that could be removed readily was made to fit snugly on top and within the barrel. A weight was then placed on the cover to pack down the contents.

As the feed is taken out from below, the contents of the barrel will be pushed downward. It is not necessary that the barrel be filled all at one time. It can be partly filled, and more green stuff added as opportunity offers. A barrel of this feed will furnish enough green stuff for thirty or forty hens during the winter.

GETTING TO THE POINT

Hallos!" shouted the fireman on the telephone.

"Hallos!" came back in feminine tones, "is this the fire station?"

"Yes; what is it?"

"Well, I want to inform you that my garden runs right up to the walk that runs along the side of the Browns' walk, next door—".

"You've got the wrong number, madam."

"You said this was the fire-station, didn't you?"

"Yes, but—".

"Well, I'm trying hard to raise a respectable lawn, and have lately planted grass seed as far as the Browns' walk. Then, besides the grass seed, I had it tidied up and made ready for planting bulbs, and—"

"I say, ma'am, you are mistaken in the telephone number. This—"

"Isn't this the fire-station?"

"It is; but—"

"Very well. Now, I want to say further that, however careless our neighbors are with their garden, we are very much the other way. In fact, a pretty lawn, adorned with a variety of flowers, is what I and my husband are looking for next season."

"For heaven's sake, ma'am, what has this to do with the fire-station?"

"Oh, well, our house is No. 300, School Street, and the Browns' house next door is on fire. Now, don't let your firemen trample—"

But the fireman had dropped the receiver.

RESETTING BOLTS IN CONCRETE

It probably has been necessary, at some time in the experience of every farmer, to reset bolts in concrete floors to fasten down a small mill, cream separator, or gas engine. There are, of course, several ways in which this can be done, but the one which I have found most satisfactory in every respect is by melting ordinary sulphur, as it is bought at the drug store, in a small pan over a slow flame and pouring it around the bolt as it sets in its proper place in the hole in the concrete. As sulphur cools into a solid crystal almost instantly, it is necessary to have the bolt exactly in its proper place.

The advantages of using sulphur over lead, which is most commonly used, is that it is cheaper; the hole in the concrete need be only large enough to accommodate the head of the bolt, whereas the hole for the bolt when lead is to be used had best be conical in shape—that is, the bottom of the hole larger than the top. Sulphur in hardening does not shrink, lead does; and to offton its list of merits, a little water in the hole when sulphur is used makes no material difference.

THE KAWARTHA LAKES

The Kawartha Lakes—600 feet above the level of Lake Ontario and within 125 miles of Toronto are among the most popular of Ontario's summer playgrounds. The Indian name of the district means "Bright Waters and Happy Lands."

Here the vacationist will find unlimited opportunities for sailing, canoeing, motor-boating, bathing and fishing, together with excellent hotel accommodation. The very air perfumed with pine and balsam is a tonic.

The larger lakes of the district provide fine bass, maskinonge and salmon trout fishing, while the smaller lakes abound with speckled trout.

Descriptive booklet with map of the district may be obtained free from any agent Canadian National Railways.

SOME THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Parents, your children's happiness is of very great importance to you.

Parents owe it to their children to provide for their children good, clean, interesting and instructive reading that will help to make them intelligent and self-reliant.

To succeed in any business in this age a person must possess intelligence and good judgment.

It is well that a person's education should mean more than possessing a lot of facts. He should be able to weigh values, make quick decisions after sizing up transactions and situations. Thus he must have an intelligent grasp of matters pertaining to his duties.

Success in any desired achievement comes chiefly by intelligent industry and concentration on the matter in hand.

Fathers with families of young children should help along prohibition, which has reduced cases of alcoholic insanity by 60 per cent.

Would there be as many auto accidents if all motorists would consider that possibly some persons on the road or street may be drunk, crazy, blind, deaf, dumb, reckless, childish, crippled or in a hurry?

One of the hard troubles in business life is to confess failure and discuss money troubles with your friends.

The youth who purposes in his mind to be a big man will realize his ambition if he aims high and works to win.

Canada has been and is being made by country boys and girls. They may look crude and so they are. But watch out—they are on the way and a lot of them will get there.—Artist Skuce.

A boy's success in life depends largely on the flame of desire kindled in him by his schoolmaster—it takes a man to enthuse a boy and set him dreaming of future achievement and success.

THE WET VOTE

How far did the wet vote contribute to the overthrow of the Farmers' party? Some time ago Mr. Ferguson told the people that he had devised a liquor policy that would please everybody. What that policy was he refused to tell, but the mere mention of such a possibility raised the hopes of the thirsty ones. Later, out of deference to prohibition sentiment within his own party, Mr. Ferguson hedged on the question and finally came out with declaration that the O. T. A. would be enforced until the people by plebiscite, demanded its removal. We look for that plebiscite soon after the Ontario House convenes. The wets knew they could look for no sympathy from either Liberals or Farmers and, remembering Mr. Ferguson's animosity to the Ontario Temperance Act, pinned their faith and hopes on him, in spite of his meaningless eleventh-hour avowal. It meant nothing more than "since the O. T. A. is the law of this Province I will enforce it until I can do away with it." The Manitoba decision will have given the liquor people everywhere confidence and hope. Those who wish to have the Ontario Temperance Act continue had better gird their loins for the battle—and do it betimes. We shall be sorry if Ontario is deprived of the services of two so capable and honest leaders as Mr. Wellington Hay and the Hon. Mr. Drury.—Montreal Witness.

BACKFIRE

"It's no wonder you're such a sissy," declared the bad boy. "Your papa and mamma were married by a justice of the peace."

"Well," retorted independent Mary, "from the noise I hear coming from your hour your papa and mamma must have been married by the secretary of war."—Chicago Continent.

HOG DEFIES FLAMES TO SAVE HER PIGS

At a fire in Leominster, Mass., when a mother hog was removed from her burning pen, she persisted in returning repeatedly to be with her little ones until somebody removed the five offsprings to a place of safety. Then the mother, whose bristles were burning on her last trip so that a fireman had to spray her with a chemical, was content to remain with her family, a safe distance from the flames. Five times the hog had been removed before her liberators discovered the cause of her refusing to stay away from the pen.

WHEN THE MOTOR STALLS

A good many fatal motor accidents are caused by the stalling of the motor on steep hills. Especially is this the case when the driver of the car is of a nervous strain. A great many people when confronted with such an occurrence merely keep the foot brake on until the motor is started and low gear engaged. This is where the accidents generally have their beginning in the foot brake is weak or if the driver happens to release the pressure from the pedal for an instant, the car immediatdly starts to run backwards and in most cases goes over a nearby bank or ditch before the excited driver gains control. It is always advisable in such a case as this to immediatdly put on the emergency brake and when the clutch is engaged sufficiently to hold the car from backing up in low gear, the lever can be easily released and a sure get-away made. Two fatal accidents of this nature occurred in Ontario during the past few days.

FORD'S NEW SPEEDOMETER

There are so many stories about the Ford car that one hesitates to say that any story he hears is a new one.

Silas Hocking, in his new book, tells this one:

It is said Mr. Ford has invented a new kind of speedometer. When the car is travelling at thirty miles an hour it shows a green light; at forty an hour it shows a red light; at sixty it plays "Nearer, my God, to Thee."—Toronto Star.

ENLIGHTENING

Percy—"I have been greatly benefitted by spending the evening with you. Your intelect appeals to me. Are you a literary woman?"

Mercy—"Oh, my, no; I am a teacher in an infant school."

PREPARED TO RULE

She was a widow and he a bluff sailor, but not finding it easy to make a landman's direct proposal, he decided to address her in the speech of the sea.

"Kate," he said, "your boat is drifting down the stream of life, with no strong hand to steer it past the rocks. May I be your captain and hail it for you?"

"No, Jack," Kate answered, with an engaging blush. Then, in a firm tone of voice, "But you may be my second mate, if you like."

TURNED TEST INTO EARNEST

Is there any Canadian parallel for this experience of a pastor in a small Pennsylvania town. The citizens were deaf to all appeals for progress. In his effort to get a new community hall he found himself appointed a committee of one to begin construction. The next morning with pick and shovel "the committee commenced to function." His spirit electrified the townsfolk to such a degree that they came to the rescue and completed the building.

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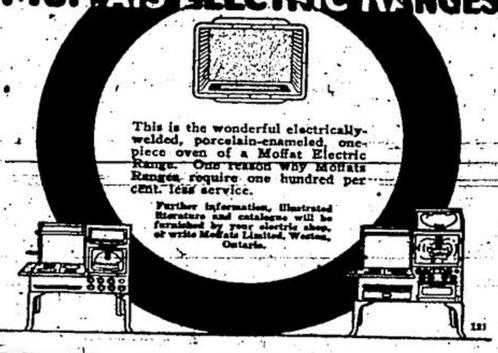

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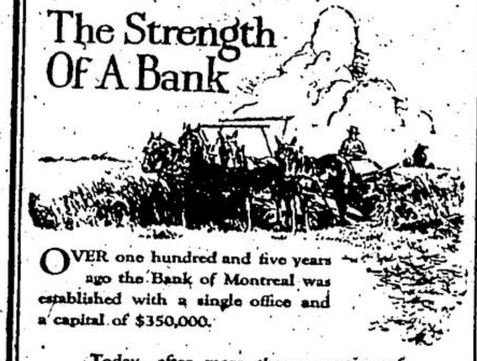

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