



# The Acton Free Press

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THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 6, 1924

## EDITORIAL

### Forest Council Refuses to Construct Waterworks

The Town of Forest occupies a rather unenviable position. The Provincial Board of Health has ordered the town to construct a waterworks system and to commence the work this week. At a meeting of the Council last Friday a resolution was passed against construction, the Mayor voting with the majority. The penalty for refusal is \$100 per day. The Forest Free Press has for several years advocated strongly the waterworks system as a utility of great value to the town. The refusal of the Council to take the advice will be costly to the town.

### Make Friends of Your Children's Teachers

In his column "The Editor Talks," Mr. M. A. James, of the Bowmanville Statesman, says: "We are still of the opinion that too many parents neglect to show the regard, respect, courtesy and consideration for the teachers of their children that they should in their interest. Mothers, get into touch with your children's school teachers occasionally and learn how they act in school, both mentally and physically. Remember, the teachers can observe them closely, and perhaps have noticed some traits that would be well for you to know about." This is all quite true, and coming from Mr. James, who was himself a teacher for years, has the force of both experience and observation. The Public School teachers have, perhaps, more opportunity for observation of the moral conduct of the growing boys and girls under their care than the parents themselves. They are naturally anxious for the upbuilding of clean, chaste, honorable character, and will welcome any approaches for the purpose of consultation and counsel from the parents of their pupils.

### Severe Punishment for Sending Indecent Letters by Mail

A case in Police Court at Georgetown last week revealed the fact that the law is exceedingly strict respecting the sending of letters containing indecent, immoral or obscene matter through the mails. There was evidence to show that considerable of this had been done in that locality, and there are no doubt persons of inchoate minds who are guilty of this crime, in other places, who will be surprised to learn what the consequences to them may be for having any part in such unbecomely and wicked offences. The Criminal Code of Canada says: "Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years imprisonment who posts for transmission or delivery by or through the post office, any obscene or immoral letter, book, picture, or other publication, matter or thing of an indecent or immoral character." Every Police Magistrate, Chief of Police, Provincial or Dominion Constable is instructed to act upon any reliable information when such offences are believed to have been committed, and to have the guilty parties tried in court for any such criminal conduct or action.

### A Revenue-Producing Utility

Gradually, but surely, the waterworks system of this town—which, it may be said, is hardly yet fully installed—is earning revenues which will eventually meet in large measure the debentures issued to cover the cost of their construction. The auditors' report shows that the revenues last year aggregated \$3,783.04, while the cost of operation and maintenance was \$2,172.54. This leaves \$1,610.50 to be applied on debentures and interest for the year. But the financial returns is the least important feature of the possession of an adequate waterworks system in the town. First, and most important, is the standpoint of improved health and sanitary conditions secured. With our splendid water, proven by competent analysis to be pure and wholesome, and absolutely free from any bacilli contamination, so common with well water, we have much to be thankful for as a municipality. In the western town of Forest, of about the same size as Acton, where well water is wholly depended upon, the Provincial Board of Health has stepped in and ordered that a system of waterworks be installed, so as to secure improved health and sanitary conditions. From the standpoint of economics the protection against catastrophes from fire is also highly important. When the installation of a waterworks system was first discussed there was some opposition offered, owing to the very considerable cost of construction. To-day, however, no whisper of objection is heard on this score, and our citizens generally are proud that as a town we have a modern, up-to-date waterworks system, giving abundance of pure spring water; the feeling of security from devastating fires, and a growing surplus from revenues derived to meet the interest and amortization created for its installation.

## A Balanced Budget

The keynote of the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Dominion Parliament last Thursday was "A Balanced Budget." A balanced Budget—the first since 1912-13; reduction in taxation, production and transportation costs; economy in civil government and retrenchment in public expenditures; a substantial cut in the duties on agricultural imports; consolidation of revenue-collecting services; stabilization and control of freight rates on grain from the Head of the Lakes to Liverpool; removal of discrimination in ocean rates on Canadian products, and re-introduction at an early date of the Redistribution Bill—all these features were set forth in the Speech from the Throne delivered at the opening of Parliament.

## Collecting all the Municipal Taxes Yearly

Last year Winton Council turned over its unpaid taxes to an outside agent for collection, and the results were so satisfactory that this year's Council is following the same plan, though two local men offered to undertake the work for considerably less than the \$400 charged by the outside agency. Any town that can keep its taxes well paid up for an annual expenditure of \$400 is making an exceedingly good bargain.—Wajkerton Telescope. Acton surely must have made good bargains in the selection of her tax collectors for the past quarter century. Year after year each successive collector has been able to return his roll with practically all taxes paid in full. In the year 1921, for instance, the auditors reported the sum of \$32,000 uncollected from 1920; and thus it has gone from year to year. Two features adopted by our Municipal Council have contributed to this result: The payment of taxes in instalments, and the penalty clause of 5 per cent. added to the taxes for non-payment of the instalments on the due dates. To accomplish this of course requires vigilance on the part of the collectors and the impartial imposing of the penalty where default in payment has occurred. Some towns report very satisfactory results where a bonus for prompt payment is allowed, instead of a penalty for default.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Attorney-General Nickle is taking steps to tighten up on the class of drug store which is considered a menace to the successful administration of the Ontario Temperance Act.

In the City of Hull, Province of Quebec, there is a double-decked drinking saloon, with a table and seating capacity for 700 people. Not much control there, Government or otherwise.

The Ferguson Government's O. T. A. "referendum" bill provides for voting on different questions at different times. Is Ontario to be afflicted with a series of campaigns?—Farmers' Sun.

Canada now has 300 ports and harbors on her eastern and western coasts. This is an increase of sixty in the past ten years. The shipping business of the Dominion is manifestly growing.

An agreement has been entered into between the Canadian and British Governments as to immigration and what class should receive financial aid. The agreement provides for assistance to three classes, namely, children, nominated persons and household workers.

In order to enable French farmers to obtain implements and agricultural machinery at the lowest possible prices, thereby assisting them to increase production, the Government of France proposes to suspend or materially reduce the tariff on farm implements.

The difference between the British revolution and all other revolutions in Europe is that it first learned how, and that it developed a leader skilled in all the arts by which England had been governed for centuries. Premier MacDonald is one of the most interesting figures in the world to-day.—Orillia Times.

In Trenton the license fee for transient traders has been raised to \$250. If transient storekeepers remain in the town one year \$200 will be refunded, the balance of the \$50 to be kept for taxes. No licenses will be issued for sale of "claptrap" articles on street corners. This seems like a very equitable plan for all concerned.

Those who point to violations of the Ontario Temperance Act to prove its failure altogether overlook the fact that the old license laws were openly violated. Violation of law is no new thing in the matter of liquor control. It seems to be a part of the traffic. Then in the matter of drunkenness, who would suggest for a moment that conditions under the old license law were better than to-day?—Picton Gazette.

A simple little ballad gives Quebec's definition of when a person is intoxicated:

He is not drunk, who from the floor  
Can rise and take just one drink more;  
But he is drunk, who prostrate lies,  
And neither more can drink or rise.

And upon this basis the provincial statistics are compiled as to the number of drunks in the province under Government control.

Abraham Lincoln, the martyred President of the United States during the civil war, exhorted the people everywhere to act upon this principle: "Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well-wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the revolution never to violate in the least particular the laws of the country, and never to tolerate their violation by others." This high resolve might well be adopted by the people of Canada, too.

Few outside the postal staffs of the country have any realization of the extent to which our parcel post system is now utilized. During the holidays scores of bags of goods came from Great Britain to Acton, sent from friends across the sea by parcel post. The people of the United States have patronized this part of the postal system in a wholesale way. In the year 312,000 pairs of shoes were sent by parcel post from Brockton, Massachusetts—nearly a thousand pairs a day; and in one month a manufacturing concern of Indian Orchard, Massachusetts, sent 100,000 pounds of its product to Russia by first-class registered mail, at a cost of \$50,000.

## THE MAPLE SUGAR INDUSTRY

The season for the making of maple sugar is drawing near. Maple is a tree which grows in abundance in the eastern part of Canada. It is one of the trees of which the Indians and the early settlers of the country made use for the production of maple sugar. The process of making maple sugar is a simple one, and it is one of the most profitable industries in the country. The maple tree is a tree of many uses, and it is one of the most valuable trees in the country. The maple tree is a tree of many uses, and it is one of the most valuable trees in the country. The maple tree is a tree of many uses, and it is one of the most valuable trees in the country.

## BOOST YOUR ORGANIZATION

Acton is fortunate in possessing a number of splendid organizations for promoting the interests of the community, and it is a notable fact that many public-spirited men and women are devoting a great deal of time and effort to making these organizations successful. The organizations are: The Acton Improvement Society, the Acton Literary and Debating Society, the Acton Musical Society, the Acton Athletic Club, the Acton Golf Club, the Acton Tennis Club, the Acton Hockey Club, the Acton Baseball Club, the Acton Soccer Club, the Acton Football Club, the Acton Basketball Club, the Acton Volleyball Club, the Acton Badminton Club, the Acton Table Tennis Club, the Acton Chess Club, the Acton Bridge Club, the Acton Backgammon Club, the Acton Ludo Club, the Acton Draughts Club, the Acton Backgammon Club, the Acton Ludo Club, the Acton Draughts Club.

## WHAT INTERESTED HER

The director of the British Museum, Sir Frederic Kenyon, has had many amusing experiences with visitors. Once, says The Times, he was showing a distinguished lady some of the priceless treasures of which he is the custodian, but for a long time nothing seemed to interest her very much. Then suddenly he noticed a change in her face lighted up, and she looked forward.

## HOW ABSENT-MINDED

He was always kicking. One day his wife took him to a restaurant and he immediately proceeded to embark on his usual tirade. He was washing his face and looking in his glass of water. "No more for me," he announced loudly. A minute later he drank the water.

## THE LAKE OF LIVING FIRE

According to messages received at the Department of the Interior at Washington from Munt, Hole, of Hamilton, Ontario, the Lake of Living Fire has again drained out as a result of subterranean disturbance. The lake, which is situated in a volcanic area, has a history of draining out and refilling. The lake is a natural phenomenon, and it is one of the most interesting features of the area.

## SCOTCH DESCENT

Gerald had just bought a car, and he was taking the girl of his heart for a spin. Proud of being able to turn a corner without seriously damaging the hedge, he was letting the car out a bit. Up hill and down dale they tore at a great pace.

## WAITING ON APPETITE

Abysmal customs have a diverting simplicity. If we may gauge them by an example furnished, the Washington Star by the captain of an ocean liner.

## MILLIONS FOR ELEVATORS

According to recent statements in the press here, the milling firm of Spillers Ltd., of Montreal, has ordered \$1,600,000 for a chain of elevators in Alberta and a terminal elevator in Vancouver. An agreement has been reached with the harbor commission here for a \$250,000 bushel terminal elevator just east of the present grain elevator.

## BRAVE BOY BEN

Holistic hearties broke beautiful before-bray, but Beatrice's brother then bought Beatrice.

## CARE OF PAINT AND BRUSHES

When it is necessary to store an open pail of paint indefinitely, and the cover has been cut away, the paint will naturally become hardened and useless from exposure to the air. This may be prevented, and the paint may be preserved, by pouring a trifling quantity of kerosene over the surface of the paint. The kerosene will form a protective film over the surface of the paint, and it will prevent the paint from becoming hardened and useless.

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