THE HOME OF

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THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 20, 1924

EDITORIAL

Aiming to Reduce Fire Losses

The Provincial Legislature is evidently seized with the unfortunate fact of the abnormal fire loss sustained in Ontario year after year, and is prepared to take steps to enable towns and villages to secure fire-fighting apparatus, more readily than in the past. The second reading of a bill enabling Municipal Councils, by a two-thirds' vote, to buy fire apparatus up to $20,000 value without a vote of the people, has been given. The limit at present is $5,000. Another clause of the bill will enable incorporated villages to purchase fire-fighting apparatus and be assessed separately for it in their municipality. The bill is now being considered by the Municipal Committee. Fortunately for this municipality there is no present necessity for taking advantage of this bill when it becomes law. Our waterworks system, with auxiliary fire pumps, and a steam fire engine, gives ample protection in the way of fire-fighting appliances. But there are numbers of towns and villages which will be essentially benefitted by the privileges secured by this bill.

Improving Our Streets

Acton Municipal Council will soon need to decide on their road improvement programme for 1924. It might be well for them to consider seriously the advisability of reducing expenditures of general repairs, and centreing their attention upon properly re-surfacing the roadways on Mill and Main Streets. These streets have been showing very plainly the need for re-surfacing for several years. They have excellent foundation construction, which it is necessary to preserve by re-surfacing. Last year there was a manifest evidence of disintegration in places, and the consolidation of the road bed can only be preserved by a liberal coating of tarvia macadam or asphalt. The contractors for the new Toronto-Sarnia Highway, which traverses both Mill and Main Streets, will be engaged on the outside sections of the highway the coming season, and will, no doubt, have the necessary machinery on the ground, and material easily available, and satisfactory arrangements may be made with them to undertake this important work. Their experience in road-building will be worth securing for the proposed undertaking. Keeping up the roads under modern traffic conditions is one of the most difficult problems the Council has to deal with. Members of the Council are thoroughly seized of this fact and realize the necessity of making a diligent and thorough canvass of the roads situation as soon as convenient. With the increase of traffic through town upon the opening of the new Provincial Highway, the people of Acton will naturally desire to see our section of the highway put into creditable condition.

Hydro-Electric Vindicates the Project

It is surely reassuring to the people of the Province of Ontario that the Gregory Commission found, upon the minute investigation for several years, that the rash charges of irregularities in the development and construction of the Chippewa power project, were baseless and unfounded. Complete vindication and unqualified praise of its engineering features are contained in the long-waited Commission's report, which was tabled in the Legislature last week by Premier Ferguson. Charges of "irregularities, wastefulness, the improper use of property of the Commission, and other wrongdoings of a greater or less degree," states the Commission's report, were "ghost stories—stories which, upon investigation, proved to be baseless, and faded away." Concerning the management it says: "There is not a breath of suspicion of any personal wrongdoing." There are special references to the efficient and loyal services of Engineers F. A. Gaby and Harry G. Acres, and as to the results of their engineering efforts as represented in the Queenston-Chippawa development plant and its efficiency, it states, "surpassed even their own expectations." One paragraph pays tribute to Sir Adam Beck, who through anxious years has shouldered responsibility for the world's premier public ownership power project at Chippawa. His "fighting qualities," its says, "stood him in good stead and enabled him to overcome all obstacles. From the beginning he has kept the Commission free from paralyzing influences of officialdom." He "has rendered great and notable service to Ontario." It is certainly just and commendible to thus acknowledge the services of the man who has been Ontario's "saviour," so far as Hydro development is concerned. Through his skill and foresight Ontario people are enjoying the advantages of electric current at prices lower than is being paid elsewhere in the whole round world.

Must Pay the Price

Professors, teachers, publishers are filling the air with lamentations over the loss of the riches of purity and reserve among girls since the war. All countries are echoing in the terms of the bankruptcy of morals, of the pitiful, unpardonable neglect of parents, of the intrusion of lowering liberties in the high schools and colleges. The discussions and denunciations and danger signals may develop explosions and get the air cleared. Those who dance through the pipings of life will one day have to pay the piper.—Carleton Place Canadian.

Conservative Paper Says there is no Demand for a Plebiscite

In the Orillia Packet, one of the leading Conservative weekly papers in the Province, the following comment appeared editorially last week: "In the face of strenuous opposition from the Progressive members, the bill authorizing the Government to take a plebiscite on the Ontario Temperance Act, passed its second reading in the Ontario Legislature on Tuesday. The main objections to the measure were that it did not name a day for the vote, or set out the questions to be voted upon. As to the former, the Government is pledged to give a vote whenever public opinion calls for it. But so far there has been no such demand. In fact, the bulk of representative, responsible expressions have been in favor of giving a fair chance to the Act to show what can be accomplished under Mr. Nickle's administration. The Government would not be justified in putting the people of the Province to the expense and inconvenience of another plebiscite, in response to the noisy clamor of a few ward politicians in the large centres. As to the second point, the chief question must necessarily be whether the people wish the Ontario Temperance Act to remain in force. If this issue is put squarely to the people the Packet has no fears as to the result. Nobody who can recall conditions prior to 1916 will be easily persuaded that prohibition has failed to work a revolution for the better, and the electors are not going to be tricked into giving up its solid advantages for the specious arguments from "moderationists" whose zeal for "true temperance" did not awaken till the bars and the liquor shops had been closed." The Packet voices the opinion of thousands of Conservative electors, as well as that of moral reformers generally of all shades of politics.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Canadian Government has prohibited the entry into Canada of cattle, sheep, goats or swine from the United States, on account of the appearance of the foot and mouth disease in that country. A very wise precaution.

He was holding forth to a group off a Main Street corner and he said: "This Ontario Temperance Act is no good. There is more drinking done than ever. It should be done away with, and a sane law put in its place so it would be easier for a fellow to get a drink when he wants it." And he wasn't an Irishman, either.—Shelburne Economist.

For a pedestrian to be drunk is a misdemeanor, and punishable by the Ontario Temperance Act. He is not so much a menace as a nuisance, but for a driver of a powerful motor car on the highway to be intoxicated is, as it should be, a crime because of the peril to the public that is involved, and the Highway Traffic Act provides heavy penalties for this serious offence.

A general increase in fire insurance rates in Western Ontario, amounting to 25 cents per $100.00 of insurance, went into effect last week, in country districts and small towns where the fire protection is below a certain specified standard. This shows another advantage Acton secured in the installation of an adequate waterworks system with auxiliary pumps for fire pressure.

What is success? It is achievement. How do we measure it? By the benefits that it confers. Wealth is not necessarily the measure of it, for a man may be successful and never rich, or he may be rich and fail of success. True success is measured not by dollars but by service—and health, character, education and industry are the foundation stones upon which is rises.—Companion.

Rumors are current that the budget is to be brought down in about three weeks, and have led to an inference in certain quarters that the Government intends to reduce income taxes. The inference is founded on the idea that the budget is being brought forward early so that any changes made in the income tax may come into effect before April 30 next, when the first payment of income taxes for the present year is due.

Intimation has been given by Premier Ferguson that further encouragement is to be given those in the rural sections of the Province where Hydro power is available to enjoy the benefits obtainable therefrom. There was a report recently that Sir Adam Beck advocated that the Government should pay the full cost of rural primary lines instead of fifty per cent., as at present. That may be the plan in the mind of the Premier, and it would, no doubt, meet with favor by those concerned.

Premier Ferguson says that it is his duty to get the views of both extremes on such measures as the Ontario Temperance Act, and that there may be a middle passage between those extremes. That language can mean nothing except the abolition of the law. Prohibition is described by its opponents as one of the "extremes." The old license law was a middle passage between prohibition and the unrestricted sale of intoxicants, and those who oppose prohibition call themselves moderates.—Toronto Globe.

Austria appears to be more humane in the treatment of horses and dogs than most countries. A municipal regulation compels hackdrivers to stand their horses on the shady side of the street, and it is a punishable offense to allow dogs to run upon the highway trying to keep up with automobiles or bicycles; neither may anyone ride any poor old horse that is being taken to be slaughtered; neither may one with animals in his wagon leave them at the door of a cafe or inn while he goes in to have a good time. This last, the ordinance says, is the height of gratuitous torture.

A BIRD PARTY THAT'S NEW

Each guest was invited to come representing a bird and to be prepared to give an imitation of its song and a description of some of its characteristics. The rooms were decorated with green to give an atmosphere of the woods.

When all had assembled, the hostess announced that the concert would begin, and she called upon each one in turn. The guests were given paper and pencils and were asked to write the names of the feathered songsters from the songs and descriptions. The one guessing correctly the largest number of birds was awarded a bird book as a prize.

The guests were next invited into an adjoining room, where pictures of different varieties of birds, without names, were fastened upon the walls. Each picture was numbered and the guests were given cards containing as many numbers as there were pictures and were asked to write the names of the birds opposite the corresponding number. The winner of this contest was also awarded a prize.

Then the guests were asked to be seated and the following questions were passed around, each to be answered with the name of a bird:

1. What bird makes clothing?
2. What bird is a royal sportsman?
3. What bird represents the national colors?
4. What bird is not truthful?
5. What bird keeps late hours?
6. What bird is derisive?
7. What bird is unpleasant?
8. What bird is inclined to be melancholy?
9. What bird is a girl's name?
10. What bird is a celestial body?
11. What bird is a part of the kitchen?
12. What bird grows on trees?
13. What bird is a believer in corporal punishment?
14. What bird is very just?
15. What bird is dishonest?
16. What is the most frolicksome bird??
17. What is the military bird?
18. What bird is a church dignitary?
19. What is a domesticated animal?
20. What is the most tempestous bird?

The one who answers the largest number of questions, correctly, received a prize. (The answers to these question will be found at the end of this article.)

A bird game was next in order. The guests were seated in a circle and the first one was asked to name a bird, then the second to name one beginning with the last letter of the one previously named; for example, the word nightingale was given by the first player, and the second gave emu, and so on down the line. No pauses were allowed and the player who could not promptly name his bird was obliged to drop out of the game. The one remaining longest in the circle won the game.

The next game occasioned much merriment. Two leaders were selected who chose sides, as down for a spelling-match. A cord was stretched down the centre of the room, and the two sets of contestants lined up on either side of it. Some light feathers were blown or floated down the centre between them. The object was for each side, by blowing, to keep the feathers from falling on its side of the cord. If a feather fell on the floor, the one nearest to whom it fell was obliged to drop out of the game. The side having the largest number of players at the end of the game, was the winner and the leader was awarded a prize.

A variation of the Animal, Vegetable and Mineral game was played. One of the guests left the room and the remainder decided upon the name of some bird. When the player returned, he asked a question of each member of the company, all of which had to be answered by "yes" or "no." The questioner determined by the answers the name of the bird. If he was unable to do so, he had to go out again, but if he was successful, another player was chosen as questioner.

Table partners for supper were secured in the following manner: The hostess passed around cards, corresponding sets to the ladies and gentlemen. On the cards were written the names of birds, a different set from those represented at the beginning of the party. These were mostly common fowl and birds, such as: The hen, goose, duck, crow, owl, turkey gobbler, rooster, whippoorwill, chickadee and others easily imitated. Each boy was asked to imitate the bird on his card, and the girl who was the corresponding one, if she recognized her mate, stepped forward. This continued until all had secured partners. It occasioned much merriment, as some of the efforts were very funny.

The centrepiece was a large, green nest filled with grapes. The souvenirs were small green nests filled with egg-shaped bonbons. The place-cards were cards on which pictures of the birds represented by the guests, each one finding his own particular bird. This evening proved instructive as well as entertaining. This party can be repeated by using other games.

Answers to bird questions

1. Tailor-bird. 2. Kingfisher. 3. Bunting. 4. Lyre. 5. Nightingale. 6. Mocking-bird. 7. Crossbill. 8. Bluejay. 9. Phoebe. 10. Starling. 11. Oven-bird. 12. Nuthatch. 13. Whippoorwill. 14. Crow (because it never complains without "cawse.") 15. Robin 16. Lark. 17. Adjutant. 18. Cardinal. 19. Catbird. 20. Stormy petrel.

HOW TROUT CHANGE COLOR

Anglers are familiar with the fact that brook trout change color, chameleon-like, in conformity with the character with the bottom over which they exists. If the fish frequent a part of the stream where the water flows over white sand, it becomes nearly white; the reverse is true if it frequents a part where the bottom is of dark clay or moss.

A fervent follower of Izaak Walton who had long been curious to learn how rapidly this tranformation takes place, captured a small trout last summer and placed it in a white porcelain tray through which he caused a stream of clear water to flow. In a few days the fish began to grow lighter in color, and before the week ended was a very light yellow, with stripes and spots only slightly darker.

His next experiment was to place a thin sheet of hard black rubber on the bottom of the tray. In less than a week the trout had become a dark slate, nearly black, with the markings almost indistinguishable.

In his third experiment he changed the fish to a dark olive green merely by covering the bottom of the tray with moss. This change took place more rapidly than the others, owing doubtless, to the fact that the fish was already dark.

The fisherman then restored the tray to its original color—white—and permitted the trout to fade to a lemon yellow. He then sprinkled a layer of brick dust over the bottom, and the fish very promptly turned to a decidedly reddish hue. His last experiment was to cover the bottom with mica sand, which wrought the most rapid change: in three days the fish became a light straw color.

To determine the cause for this color variation, the angler repeated the entire series of experiments in a darkened room. Here it required three times as long for the various changes to take place—a difference that seems to indicate that the changes are produced by the action of the light rays on the skin pigment, and not by any conscious effort upon the part of the trout.

The Boys Want to Wander Back

Former Members of The Free Press Staff Suggest a Free Press Jubilee Celebration

From time to time former members of THE FREE PRESS staff have hinted that they would greatly enjoy coming back home to celebrate the jubilee of the founding of THE FREE PRESS—July, 1925.

A letter received the other day from Mitchell Cobban, foreman of the advertising department of the Winnipeg Free Press, said respecting these suggestions: "Regarding wandering back home: I would to do so. But I would prefer that many others, old members of the staff, would take the notion at the same time, and go back when I do. Last spring I waited till July for an announcement of Acton's Jubilee Celebration, then went to the wilds of Kenora to climb rocks, and fish, and blister the back of my neck and the end of my nose. When I returned I learned that "the dud" had really gone off, and that you and the home-comers who attended, had a real home-comers who attended, had a real I think George Thurston, and perhaps some others of the old boys wrote about what a pleasure it would be to have a Jubilee Celebration for THE FREE PRESS.

If announcement of such a gathering were made now; some of the boys who might be thinking of wandering back this year, would wait until the following year. Or, if hard up for cash, they could commence saving up their ducats so as to have the necessary amount at the proper time.

I would greatly enjoy taking a tramp, a bee-line, down to the big spring, where you now get your town water; would look at spots where I cut shinny sticks when a boy; where I picked berries; and I wonder if they destroyed all the tamarack fishing poles that grew near the big spring. Then I'd take a trip out to the Gore, to fish and snare rabbits. Or have a game of cards on a bright afternoon among the rushes along Fairy Lake, just a hundred yards west of the drill shed. Or play duck-on-the-rock in Tommy Cameron's bush after Sunday School. Are there any beechnuts in Tom Moore's old bush above the school? I suppose if we went to the "Old Swimmin' Hole" we would have to wear bathing suits. A few years ago I met one of the old gang and we referred to an event that happened thirty years ago, which had always been a mystery to me. He evidently forgot that I must have been at Christian Endeavor meeting that night, or "seeing Nellie home." I will explain when I wander back again."

It will be a great joy to have such a reunion as Mitch suggests. If any considerable number of the old members of the staff suggest such a gathering in July, 1925, the present staff will gladly do everything in their power to make the home-coming memorable and enjoyable. There are about fifty old FREE PRESS boys and girls scattered over the North American continent. If they all come home with their wives and sweethearts, yes, and the children too, they'll make quite a sizable gathering, and they'll find the old home town will give them a real old-fashioned welcome, and a good time every minute they'll stay. Just say the word, and we'll be ready.

MAKING OTHERS WORK

Making other people work seems easy enough. We all know the parasite type, which never works when work can be avoided, and which relies on others for food and drink and clothes and amusement and even for its thoughts.

Such shirking is not what we mean to discuss; we speak of the faculty of using the labor of others for some common end, of directing it, of coordinating it so that there shall be no haste, no waste, and the maximum of achievement. Such direction often requires colossal labor. It is a far rarer gift than the ability to labor with your own muscles. Indeed, it is one of the rarest of gifts, and the freakishness of its distribution makes you feel more than almost anything else that all men are not born equal. You meet every day hard-working people who cannot manage others, who do not discern the aptitude of others, who do not trust others, who persist in attending to every little detail of great tasks in person. So the great tasks often remain undone.

This executive faculty of getting the very best out of others is of course most appreciated in men who fill great positions in armies or in nations, where the chief can only map out the large lines of an enterprise and must leave all details to subordinates in their respective degrees; but precisely the same faculty appears in the housekeeper who has perhaps one maid to direct, perhaps merely her own daughter. Lack of that faculty is one of the chief causes of the servant problems.

The gift of all domestic management as of all management, is inborn, but to a large extent it can be learned, and certain simple rules are of great importance. First, when you give orders, see that they are obyed. That in itself implies that orders should not be ill-considered, or confused, or conflicting. Bid no one do what cannot be done. Second, put yourself in the place of those under you. Napoleon was walking with a lady in Saint Helena, and they met a man carrying a heavy load who obliged them to turn out of the path. The lady was indignant. "Consider the burden, Madam," said the great emperor. If you at all times consider the burden, you will find your servant glad to give you their best. Third, learn system. Work thoroughly planned is half done. It is amazing how a task is lightened when you see the end of it and its relation to other tasks. And the beginning of system for others is to understand its working for you.

The thorough comprehension and application of these rules form a large part of housekeeping, which is an art, and which can be learned, like other arts. Do not let your girls neglect this elementary training while they are practising the finer graces of social life.

SCHOOLBOY HOWLERS

The following is a selection from a list of schoolboy howlers printed in the University Correspondent and the Educational Review.:

Bunyan was the inventor of the Nonconformist religion, and also wrote the Pilgrim's Chorus.

In 1620 the Pilgrims crossed the ocean, which is known as the Pilgrims' Progress.

Charles I. was going to marry the Infanta of Spain. He went to see her and Shakespeare says he never smiled again.

Q.—Where do we find mangoes? A.—Where woman goes.

The inflammability of the Pope was proclaimed in the Vatican Decrees.

William the Conqueror, was thrown from his horse and wounded in the feudal system, and he died of it.

Clive imprisoned 146 men in the Black Hole of Calcutta, and so laid the foundation of our Indian Empire.

The trade of Spain is small owing to the insolence of its people.

In Holland people make use of water power to drive their wind-mills.

Queen Elizabeth rode through Coventry with nothing on, and Raleigh offered her his cloak.

Pompeii was destroyed by an overflow of saliva from the Vatican.

A prism is a kind of dried plum because people say "prunes and prisms."

BEYOND HELP

The expert in one field may be wholly ignorant in that which adjoins it. Nevertheless, he is sometimes able to give a touch of plausibility to his explanations. The automobilist in the following story from the Washington Star had some reason on his side:

"No, sir," said the motorist, "the air-ship is utterly impractical."

"Do you speak as a scientist?"

"No, sir. As a man of an experience. Suppose your engine breaks or your gasoline gives out and leaves you stuck away up yonder in a cloud bank, how are you going to get a team of horses to pull you out?"

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