

The Acton Free Press

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H. P. MOORE, President and Editor.
C. A. BILLS, Manager and Assistant Editor.

TELEPHONE—
Editorial and Business Office 1111 St. George St.
Residence of President 1111 St. George St.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 10, 1924

EDITORIAL

Perpetual Care of Fairview Cemetery Plots

The indications are that the matter of the perpetual care of Fairview cemetery plots will eventually become a reality, whether immediate action is taken by the Municipal Council of Acton or not. It may not be generally known that the Council has already committed itself to the scheme, whether intentionally or not is immaterial. The fact remains that the Council has already accepted from several parties sums of from \$50 to \$100. By the very act of accepting these several sums the Council is legally and morally bound to have the plots thus endowed properly taken care of in perpetuity. Numbers of other persons have inserted clauses in their wills, instructing their executors to pay over to the Council, or other such incorporated body which may be in charge of Fairview Cemetery, sums up to \$100 each. Why not go heartily and unitedly into this matter with the purpose of making perpetual care general, and thus ensure the success of the plan from the outset. It is sure to become general eventually. The very reasonable thing, under existing conditions, would be to make an intelligent beginning, and to make it now.

The Principles of Good Citizenship

The inculcation of the principles of good citizenship is a most desirable matter, and is especially important to the rising generation. It was Julia Ward Howe, one of the greatest women America has produced, who suggested years ago that signing a pledge of good citizenship should be one of the features of the celebration of any country's natal day. And signing that pledge should be expected of the native-born citizens as well as of the foreign-born. The majority of us were born in Christian homes, and grew up in a religious atmosphere, but there came a time when we publicly declared our adherence to the faith in which we had been reared, and pledged ourselves to the service of the Father of us all. And so though we may have lived all our life in an atmosphere of patriotism, it is fitting that as we reach years of understanding, we should take the pledge of good citizenship. Some of us are of the opinion that as far as we ourselves are concerned, this would be quite unnecessary. We say indignantly that we are ready to be good citizens without taking any pledge. But many very well meaning citizens are not good citizens. Perhaps for all our indignation, we are not altogether sure what good citizenship requires. For one thing a good citizen must be a thinking citizen. Ignorant citizens are a danger. Intelligence is essential. Some of our girls are going to have a responsibility which their grandmothers did not have, for they are not only going to be citizens but voters. That means that in order to do their duty to our country, they must be intelligent on public questions, capable of thinking things out for themselves. It is true that before an election every voter receives from the political party with which he is affiliated, a sample ballot, showing just where to put the cross in voting for party candidates, but one who depends on that sample ballot, and marks the X as he is told without any thinking on his own part, cannot possibly be called a good citizen. Many people consider themselves good citizens who seem utterly lacking in the sense of civic obligation. The streets of their town are dirty, but it never occurs to them that they have a responsibility in that regard. The schools are poor, but beyond a little grumbling they do nothing about it. The control of the town's affairs is in the hands of inexperienced men, and money that should go for improvements, goes for naught, and yet the average citizen does nothing more drastic than say, "Isn't it a shame?" Good citizenship has the "city beautiful" as one of its goals. Good citizens should see that men both competent and honest are put in public office. There are plenty such and the fact that the other sort are so largely in control is merely due to the fact that there are so many stupid, indifferent citizens who should be good citizens. It would be a pity for our girls to get the idea that their pledge of good citizenship would go into effect only after they reached their majority. There are plenty of ways in which young people can practice good citizenship. The girl who keeps the porch boxes well cared for and the lawn raked through the summer, and picks up the scraps of old newspapers, which are blowing down the sidewalks, is doing an important part of a citizen's duties. If she helps the girl in the kitchen to learn to read and write, who is doing something still more important. If in her school life, she stands for justice and fair dealing, and frowns upon the ungenerous treatment of some boy or girl of alien blood, she is helping to establish the principles on which the country we love is founded.

Reforming the Senate from Within

Reduction of the membership in the Senate of Canada, and the retirement of Senators at the age of seventy-five, was proposed in the Senate itself last week, by Senator Turritt, the Progressive member of the Senate. The debate on his resolution was adjourned after some discussion by the Government leader, Senator Dandurand. It would be better, Senator Turritt said, in presenting his resolution, for the Senate to reform itself than to have the people reform it.

Open Season for Trout Deferred Until May Fifteenth

Trout fishermen generally feel that Hon. Charles McClos, Minister of the Fish and Game Department at Toronto, has been ill-advised in shortening the open season for trout fishing at the beginning of the season instead of at the close. To make the close season commence the first of September, or even the fifteenth of August would be quite within reason. But to defer the open season until May fifteen seems to be altogether unjustifiable and unreasonable. Nothing is gained of advantage to the trout when the whole season is considered.

Canada's Dairy Trade Increases

Canada's exports of cream and fresh milk to the United States increased very considerably during the year 1923 compared with 1922, the figures being 2,868,747 gallons of cream valued at \$4,457,582 against 1,845,325 gallons valued at \$2,832,215, and of fresh milk 2,132,765 gallons valued at \$437,215 against 878,584 gallons valued at \$102,510. The United States also took last year 1,097,112 pounds of butter valued at \$466,338; 94,200 pounds of cheese valued at \$19,167; 383,404 pounds of powdered milk valued at \$42,818; and 924,100 pounds of milk, canned or preserved, valued at \$195,125.

Liquor Sales for Revenue

The principal argument for repeal of prohibition presented at meetings of political and other organizations, at which the Ontario Temperance Act is under fire, is that the illicit sale of liquor is putting great sums of money into the pockets of the bootleggers of the Province, and that this money should be diverted to the Provincial Treasury by the substitution of Government sale for distribution by dive-keepers. It is pointed out that in British Columbia and in Quebec the Provincial authorities are making profits totalling millions of dollars yearly from the sale of liquor to their citizens for beverage purposes, and to rum-runners who smuggle it to the United States. Would Government sale in Ontario put bootleggers out of business and transfer the profits that enrich them to the public Treasury? Laying aside for the moment the question of morals and assuming that the great majority of the people of this Province would not object to paying their taxes by keeping bar, would the opening of numerous Provincial liquor stores end the operations of the dive-keepers and illicit whiskey peddlars? There is abundant testimony to be had from officers of the law in British Columbia and in Quebec that Government sale does not accomplish this end. It is asserted that in British Columbia not over half the liquor consumed in the Province passes through the Government stores. There is very real competition between the dive-keeper and the Government, and the people are openly asked to patronize the public stores so that they may lessen their taxes by drinking whiskey sold by their own agents. Leaving the question of morals out of the matter altogether, is there a reputable business man in Ontario who would suggest that the Government should provide facilities for the wasting of \$40,000,000 a year on liquor in order that one dollar in eight of the money thus spent shall find its way back to the Provincial Treasury? The policy of Government sale is a policy of economic folly. Far better would it be for the Government to take the revenue expected from it out of the pockets of the people by direct taxation and leave them the balance, that otherwise would be spent on whiskey, to flow into the channels of beneficial trade, as it does to-day, for the purchase of food, clothing, furniture, houses, motor cars, and other things that last longer and give greater satisfaction in the using than a gulp of fiery liquor now and then.—Globe.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Town of Forest was fined \$1,400 last week by Police Magistrate Woodrow, of Sarnia, for refusing or neglecting to carry out the order of the Provincial Board of Health requiring the installation of a waterworks system in the town. The Council there has surely neglected to administer in the best material or sanitary interests of the town.

According to a bulletin issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, covering the average value of occupied farms in Canada, the highest value is found in British Columbia, where an average of \$100 an acre is placed for 1923. The other provinces are: Ontario, \$84.00; Quebec, \$56.00; Prince Edward Island, \$51.00; New Brunswick, \$28.00; Saskatchewan, \$24.00; Alberta, \$24.00.

The rural mail carriers have a good friend in the Toronto Star. It suggests that along with the other "revisions" referred to the Civil Service Commission, there be included the whole case of the rural mail contractors, and that their request for a flat contract rate of \$70 per mile per annum be fully reported upon. Let's see a little justice done that isn't done under compulsion of a threatened strike.

Business men, generally will do well to be strongly impressed with the established fact that money spent for liquor, even if bought from a Government controlled dispensary, cannot be spent for the goods they deal in, and for which, under our present prohibitory law, the people have money to pay for. A Government dispensary in Acton would divert \$50,000 or \$75,000 per year from the present channels of trade in life's necessities. This amount was spent here annually when liquor licenses were granted.

The Shelburne Economist has completed twenty-one years under the editorial and business management of Mr. T. F. E. Claridge. It was never more prosperous than it is to-day. Mr. Claridge is a practical newspaper man, having had a dozen years' experience in the Economist Office, before he became proprietor. By instinct and training he is an editor of ability, and has made his paper a journal of influence in his community. The Economist is forty-one years of age, and enjoys the good-will of the community.

SOLVED

The "Bpeater" of the Outlook says that "being engaged" is an abnormal state which gets on the nerves of everybody; the engaged couple included. Nobody knows how to manage them. They are difficult to adjust from a social point of view, because they are neither the fish, flesh and fowl of unattached mortals, nor yet the good red berries of married folk. Perhaps only the entirely practical person can treat the situation.

"I know it," stated the complainant. "It can do perfectly satisfactory work, and that's all the more reason why his present work is inexcusable. He's been warned and warned repeatedly."

"What's wrong with him?" repeated the old gentleman. "He has been with us some time, and he used to be satisfactory."

"I didn't ask what was wrong with his work. What's wrong with him?"

"With him? I've heard he is engaged to a girl out of town. He's spending his time and strength going back and forth, I suppose."

"Well," said the wise one, "I should advise raising his salary to a point that will let him bring the young lady to this room. He won't be good before, and it's likely he'll be good again. If we give him the chance."

So no doubt, the young man married.

WHAT KANSAS FARMERS ASK FOR

At the recent meeting of the Board of Agriculture of the state of Kansas they provided a session lasting over several days, with discussions of all phases of farm life and problems by passing the following resolutions:

- 1—Favor State system of State Highways built and maintained from automobile license fees.
- 2—Eliminate individual competition of marketing farm products, and endorse commodity marketing through the farmer-controlled co-operative agencies.
- 3—Favor and recommend the establishment of milk as a national drink. (Wats please take careful notice of this.)
- 4—A tax on motor fuel used on roads for road construction and maintenance.
- 5—Legislation to open a waterway from the great lakes to the St. Lawrence.
- 6—Endorse diversified farming to provide all the year around employment.
- 7—Urge Congress to compel efforts to a full recognition of the importance of agriculture in its relation to the economic welfare of the nation.

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A WORD "ROOT"

The passion for any science may make a man hopelessly one-sided. An old professor, whose love for philology was such that he often disregarded the broader principles of language in a minute search for the particles binding an ordinary English word to its Aryan or Aesopian ancestor.

While this was a source of exquisite pleasure to the good Doctor Dryasdust, it caused him a great deal of discontent. Finally, one of the boldest of the students resolved to give the doctor a hint. With mock modesty he rose and said, quietly:

"Doctor, I have been thinking a good deal lately upon the derivation of the word 'Middletown.' What is your own idea of it?"

"Ahem!" said the doctor. "Really, sir, I am afraid that is a subject which will require much concentrated reflection. Now might I ask, sir, whether you have discovered any light on it?"

"Oh yes!" said the young man, with a demure smile. "It is my firm belief, sir, that Middletown is derived from Moses."

"Why, bless my soul!" exclaimed the doctor, with a hasty glance over his spectacles, to assure himself that the young man was in earnest. "And how do you derive Middle town from Moses?"

"Easily enough, doctor," replied the student. "By dropping 'oss' and adding 'deltown!'"

A NEW EXCUSE

Customer—"What do you mean by selling me this stuff you called hair restorer and telling me it would restore my head to its original condition?"

Chemist—"Didn't you like it?"

Customer—"No, I didn't. If I had kept on much longer I should have been entirely bald. Original condition, indeed!"

Chemist—"Most people are born bald, or nearly so, sir. That is the original condition."

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