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H. F. MOORE, President and Editor.
G. A. DILLON, Manager and Assistant Editor.

TELEPHONE: 117
Editorial and Business Office
Residence of President

THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 13, 1924

EDITORIAL

A Sane Movement to Improve Fire Protection and Reduce Insurance Rates

Acton is supplied with the best possible waterworks system for domestic purposes, and a satisfactory equipment for the ordinary fires of a small town. Our water is chemically pure, and the supply ample for years to come, to meet the natural growth of a progressive town such as this. The recent disastrous fire at the Beardmore tanneries demonstrated, however, that in case of a conflagration, where long-continued pumping would be necessary, continuing for half a day or more at such a fire, our tank and reservoir have limitations which should be augmented.

A solution of this difficulty is fortunately available at a very reasonable expense. Messrs. Beardmore & Co. have installed in their premises both electric and steam fire pumps of large capacity, and they have the unfailing volume of Fairy Lake behind them with an unlimited supply of water, conveyed to these pumps by gravitation. This firm is very naturally interested in having our fire protection improved, inasmuch as in addition to their large works, and their commodious warehouses at the Canadian National Railway station, they own eight-seven dwelling houses scattered throughout the town, and they pay one-fifth of all the taxes collected in the town. They have made a very generous proposal. It is this: If the municipality will extend the eight inch waterworks main on John Street, from Agnes Street south westerly, a distance of 215 feet to their pumps, connection will be made thereto, and the town will then have the advantage, in a case of a disastrous fire, of their electric and steam pumping plant and an unlimited supply of water continuously at command.

The water in Fairy Lake is spring water, the source being springs in the third concession, just a mile and a half away, and it is therefore as good as the average water supply of the small town. But in order to avoid any possible danger of contamination of the pure water supplied by our waterworks, a chlorinating system of the most improved type will be installed to chlorinate all water passing from Fairy Lake into our mains in case of it being required for fighting a large fire. The chlorinating system would operate on the water passing into our mains only when a large fire is in progress. Immediately after the fire the chlorination would cease, the valve being closed and locked, and within two hours all the surplus chlorinated water will have passed out of our mains. This system has the unqualified approval of the Provincial Board of Health.

For further protection of the tannery premises—the constant operation of which is so vital to our town's success—it is proposed to make a further extension of our waterworks system by laying an eight-inch main from Main Street into the tannery premises to a point on the line of the main siding of the Canadian National Railway on the property. It will surprise many to know that there is not at present a hydrant nor main conveniently situated for fire fighting in case of a fire in these large works.

It is estimated that the waterworks extension from John Street to the Beardmore pumps, with necessary hydrants, connections, and the chlorinating system complete, will cost \$2,800. In fact, the company guarantees its installation for that figure, and if the cost be less, the town will get the benefit of the reduced amount. The cost of the extension of the mains into the Beardmore property is estimated by the engineer at \$3,500, and this is the amount asked for in the by-law.

The consummation of these plans will place Acton in a much better position with the Fire Underwriters' Association; our pressure would be much higher and absolutely continuous, and a considerable reduction in insurance rates would without doubt follow. It is estimated that the reduction in insurance rates which may reasonably be expected will reach a far larger sum to the insurers of the town than any increase in taxation necessary to meet the debentures issued to cover the cost of the extensions proposed.

That the by-laws introduced by the Council, covering the above proposals, and which are to be submitted to the electors at the annual municipal elections on the 1st December, commend themselves to the people of Acton was amply manifested at a meeting of the Acton Chamber of Commerce last Thursday evening. There was a large attendance of business men and leading citizens present. After a thorough discussion of the matter, with technical explanations by Municipal Clerk Farmer, and information by Mr. N. H. Garden, of the Beardmore Company, and by Fire Chief McDonald, the members present signified their endorsement of the schemes by a unanimous vote of approval, and passed a resolution requesting the Council to call a meeting of electors where the matter may be fully elucidated, so that all may have an intelligent grasp of the situation.

Next Vote Likely to be for Total Prohibition

Prohibition of the manufacture, importation, exportation, transportation and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is now the ultimate goal of the temperance forces of Canada. Organizations are passing resolutions which will be passed on to the Government at Ottawa and a referendum at the next general elections is hoped for through the King Government. Many people will vote for prohibition who did not vote for the Ontario Temperance Act, because it would place the officers of the law in a better position to check illicit traffic, while its benefits to the people at large would be incalculable.

Making the Highways Safe for All

Everything that can possibly be done to make the roads safer for travel, and especially for night travel for all vehicles should be done. Even if most people are willing to take chances of being spilled into the ditch by a passing car that has come suddenly upon them in the dark or on a foggy night, they should not be permitted to add to the risks of travel, to save the small expense of providing lights for their horse-drawn vehicles. The Warden of the counties, in a conference recently with the Provincial Legislature and it has been agreed to advocate legislation providing that all vehicles used on the highways at night shall carry lights. This should not require to be advocated. It is so evidently fair and indeed necessary, that the Legislature should take it up even if the Government does not introduce a bill. It has been for too long delayed. There is no argument that can be advanced for requiring motor vehicles to carry lights that does not equally apply to all vehicles. Indeed, it would be well at the same time to impose a heavy penalty upon anyone allowing cattle or sheep to run at large at night. They have always been a nuisance and something of a menace to night drivers, even before the days of automobiles, but much more since.

A Glimpse at British Politics

British politics, as manifested in an election campaign, such as that recently held in Great Britain, have many features interesting to those who are outside and looking on. In the election after the defeat of Ramsay MacDonald's Government, Sir Harry Brittain, a Conservative, who had been the representative for Acton Burrough, was opposed by three other candidates, a Liberal, a Socialist, and an Independent. On the hustings the candidates in this burrough, as elsewhere were heckled mercilessly, during their speeches. Respecting this phase of the campaign the Acton Express said:

"Most candidates will admire or envy the attitude of Sir Harry Brittain, who, while answering questions, so far as he or anyone can, of vital import, has resolved courteously to ignore the others by giving the general answer that he declines to pledge himself on matters outside the recognized programme to which he stands committed. In other words, he prefers to be a representative on what is of paramount importance, rather than a delegate on sectional decisions of 101 minor points. The average Parliamentarian should enjoy the right of listening to arguments on anti-vaccination, the Stone of Destiny, the importation of donkeys from Spain, better protection for fortune-tellers, the painless suppression of Sunday trading, the painless extinction of brewers, and so forth, when they come before the House, and of voting in accordance with his ripened judgment. If Sir Harry Brittain's example were followed it would considerably lessen the nuisance now suffered by candidates and their agents. His attitude, if it makes any difference at all to the net result, will probably tell in his favor amongst the general public. The questioners' preconceived political ideals are generally revealed by the tenor of their literature, and when they come to the ballot-box they vote for their party candidate whatever replies they may have received to relieve their anxiety on side-issues."

It is interesting that Sir Harry was re-elected by a large majority. He is a popular member of the British Parliament. We found him an excellent host during our visit to Acton last summer.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The net debt of Canada decreased by \$9,057,770 during the month of October in spite of a decrease of approximately seven million dollars in ordinary revenue. Ordinary expenditure during the month of October was approximately four millions less than during September, amounting to \$16,000,081.

Strange, isn't it? Before the Plebiscite vote on October 23, everybody, Moderationists and all, were down on the bootleggers, and everybody disowned them. Now that they are being sent to jail for their violations of law, the sickly sentiment of sympathy in certain quarters is just a trifle amusing.

"Jail for the bootleggers" appears to be a very popular demand from all quarters. It must include the big bootleggers as well as the little ones, however. Among the violators of the law none have been more persistent than the brewers and distillers of the Province. The proposed new amendment should provide that all unlawful sellers of liquor should be jailed.

Wonder if the poll tax is looked after in Newmarket as it should be. The special effort in Orillia this year to collect this tax has added \$800 to the town finances, compared with a very small sum last year. Some of our exchanges go so far as to say that since the ladies have been given the franchise they should also be taxed the same as men. This opens quite a debatable question, as many of the ladies are not in a position to earn their livelihood the same as men.—Newmarket Era.

Reeves Hampshire and McIntyre are quite justified in their opposition in the County Council to the scheme proposed for the county to build a new county-provincial road in Nelson township to connect the Toronto-Hamilton Highway with the Dundas Street-Highway. Surely the county has made sufficient expenditures for new roads and bridges in the front of the county for one generation. With our county debenture indebtedness the highest per capita of all the counties of Ontario surely it's time to halt.

"YIDDISH"

Now and then we hear the question, "What is Yiddish?" There are announcements of the Yiddish theater and of books written in that dialect, and a definition of it suited to the popular mind. The term is one that admits considerable latitude. The Jews now living in Russia are descendants of those who immigrated there from Germany several centuries ago. At that time these people spoke an imperfect and rather debased German, which originally differed little from the local dialects from the Middle Rhine.

Although they used the Hebrew tongue in their synagogues, they took to writing in Hebrew characters the German which made their popular speech. Thus they not only mystified the Russians, but kept their business transactions secret. The tongue was called Yiddish, from the German Jiddisch.

The system of writing one language in the character of another is more or less widely in use outside of Yiddish. Some of the Russian Jews who have settled in this country write English in Hebrew characters. It often happens that while the unlearned classes of a country can master a spoken language not their own, they are incapable of writing the words of that language. So it may happen that even if a German speaks French to perfection he may employ the German instead of the Roman characters when he sets it down.

One letter sent to the State Department not long ago proved to be a complete puzzle. It was written in a Greek alphabet, but perhaps the translator began to spell it out, he found the language quite unlike modern Greek. Finally it was submitted to a Greek merchant, who was well used to the ways of the Orient, and he at once explained it as merely a French letter written in the Greek characters. To him, it was a simple proposition; for letters written in Greek by Turkish soldiers, and in Armenian with Greek characters, had been a commonplace of his daily business intercourse.

Yiddish is an important language because it embodies so much of the history of the wandering and landless Jews.

WHY SCHOOL TEACHERS GO CRAZY

Teacher—"What is a Plymouth Rock?"
Pupil—"One that lays hard-boiled."

Teacher—"What is a guitar?"
Pupil—"A disease of the head."

Teacher—"Who was Homer?"
Pupil—"The guy I have Ruth made famous."

Teacher—"What is horse power?"
Pupil—"The distance one horse can carry a pound of water in an hour."

Teacher—"What is a grass widow?"
Pupil—"The wife of a dead vegetarian."

Teacher—"Spell receive!"
Pupil—"G-E-T."

Teacher—"What is the world's largest ship?"
Pupil—"Friendship."

Teacher—"What is poison?"
Pupil—"The way a Dutchman says boys."

Teacher—"What is the climax of a story?"
Pupil—"Where it says to be continued."

Teacher—"What is bigamy?"
Pupil—"An insanity that causes a man to pay three board bills instead of two."

Teacher—"What is a reformer?"
Pupil—"One who seems to enjoy seeing that others do not have any."

AN ALERT CHIEF

A man who was wanted by the police had been photographed in six different positions and the pictures were circulated among the police. The chief of his department took a keen interest in the few days later said: "I duly received the pictures of the six 'micreants' whose capture is desired. I have arrested five of them, the sixth, under observation and will be taken soon."

"LIGHT" READING

It is interesting to find a familiar theme considered from a new point of view. It has been interesting to find that there is a new point of view from which to consider the ever-discussed tragedy of "Hamlet." In East Hently the other day two women met on the threshold of the village library. She who was going in noticed the book which her neighbor who was coming out, was carrying, and remarked, "I didn't know, Mrs. Hlms, that you were a reader of Shakespeare."

Mrs. Hlms looked apologetic. "Well, Mrs. Brown," said she, "I ain't given to wasting time on light literature; generally speaking, I really ain't. With a family the size of mine, I'm too busy. But—do you mind telling me I go in the down every day after dinner if I don't want to go all to pieces an' give him another case of nervous prostration and goodness knows I can't afford to do that. He said to take a nap, but I told him that I couldn't; it ain't in me. I'm as wide-awake a body as these is stirring from sun-up to sun-down, an' I couldn't go to sleep, not if I held my eyes closed by main force. So then he said, 'Take a book; lie down and take a book, and don't pick out anything else or anything, but take the lightest thing you can get hold of, and put your feet up, and pillers to you back,' and if it ain't as good as a nap, why the next best thing."

"Well, it certainly does seem as if there couldn't be anything lighter and less edifying than that. I don't know what my poor mother'd say to me. She disapproved of play-acting an' shows stronger than anybody I ever knew. I remember I used to feel it quite a grievance that she wouldn't let me read anything but I was a girl. But some real good people, feel different nowadays; and under doctor's orders—"

"That's why I took out a play; and of course I've heard of Shakespeare as the best playwright, and I asked Lety to ask at the High School which was his best play, and she said 'Hamlet.' Well, I can't say I fancy the glance I had in the library before bringin' it away with me. But I don't suppose hasty judgments are good for much, so I took it after all. Perhaps it'll turn out more enterprising than it looks to be. Anyway, I'm going home to mind doctor's orders right away, and I'll be back in a jiffy—and if I don't improve under 'em it ain't my fault. Well, I'm glad to hear you found it so interesting. You are an enthusiastic! Well, maybe I shall, but I don't hardly think so. Good morning!"

GOLDEN THOUGHTS

Courage
Courage, heart! Look up! Do you not know the blue sky is away up there, beyond the clouds?—Helen Van Anderson.

The Only Way
The only way I have a friend is to be one.—Emerson.

As The Sun Sets
Let us conclude by saying to you, who I have too frequent occasions to say to my other remaining old friends, the fewer we become, the more let us love one another.—B. Franklin.

An Assurance
We are in God's hands, brother—Shakespeare.

Vice and Virtue
If you tell me of the pleasure of vice, tell out its end too; for I issue in death, even as virtue leadeth to life. Or, if you think fit, scrutinize them both even before the end; for we shall see that vice has a great deal of pain attached to it, and virtue great pleasure. Nothing is so painful as a bad conscience; nothing more pleasing than a good hope.—S. Chryostom.

"SCALPED"

A Scottish footballer was as bald as a billiard ball, but managed to keep it concealed by means of a cap and wig. In one match, however, as one of his opponents took a running shot at the goal, "Wiggy" got his head in the way of the ball and the wig and cap were knocked off. When the first player saw the result of his shot he seemed thunderstruck for a moment, and then exclaimed: "That heaven! I've scalped the man!"

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