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THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 22, 1925

EDITORIAL

The Level Crossings

Inquests concerning the safety of level crossings ought to be held before accidents occur, rather than inquests on bodies of victims of the economy of railways or municipalities.—Guelph Mercury. Many people will hope that Attorney-General Nickel's statement that "level crossings must go," will be put into effect.

Canada's Dead Letter Office

It evidently has never occurred to the general public that if everyone who writes a letter would take the simple precaution of writing or having printed a return address on the upper left hand corner of the envelope there would be no need of a dead letter office at Ottawa. It could go out of business at once. As it is, it costs our government hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to handle the million of letters that go astray. And that, of course, takes no account of the losses to the senders and the intended recipients through business letters which never reach their destination—all because of a little carelessness or lack of forethought.

Canada Surprises Overseas Investigators

The visit of the newspapermen from the British Isles to Canada the past summer evidently brought revelations to them as to the extent, resources, enterprise and general activities everywhere manifested throughout the Dominion. The influential writers are very generous and complimentary in the expression of their opinions as to their discoveries. Mr. John Sayers, of the Belfast Telegraph says: "Canada fills me with wonder and admiration. That a comparatively small population should have accomplished so much in so short a time is marvellous, and from what I have seen I am convinced that the tapping of the Dominion's resources, particularly of Alberta and British Columbia, has only begun. If the two urgent needs of men and capital—British, if possible—can be supplied, there seems to be no limit to the future of the country. I am impressed by the loyalty, the beauty and the pluck of Canada, and I take off my hat to the courage of the early explorers and settlers. They laid the foundations upon which it should be an honor to build to-day." Fleetfoot Canada."

Subjects For School Essays

One of the burdens which teachers and pupils bear throughout each school year is the matter of "compositions," or "essays." In some schools nothing is more dreaded; in others nothing is so cheerfully undertaken. Much depends upon the teaching, and perhaps still more upon the subjects assigned for practice writing English. The case against such subjects as "Contentment," "Spring," "The Pleasure of Giving" and "Whatever it is Right" is not so decisive and easily made out as some persons would have it. To be sure, the result must always be the production of ancient and time-worn commonplace; yet they will not be old nor threadbare to the writers, but must be the product of their own thought, and therefore original. It is always to be remembered that the object of writing compositions is to stimulate thought, as well as to enable the pupils to acquire facility in the use of language. It may be that the modern system takes too little account of the usefulness of thought upon abstract subjects. It leans to the practical, and endeavors to render the task of writing compositions attractive and easy. There are persons who believe that just as good exercise can be secured with an axe and a wood-saw as with a pair of dumb-bells in a gymnasium. So we believe that just as good school essays can be written on subjects of local interest, concerning which the pupil may secure original information and form individual opinions, as on the vague and meaningless topics. An excellent field for such subjects is afforded by the opportunities for practical or esthetic improvements in one's own town or community. To the credit of the school pupils, it may be said that they have done much actual work in improving appearances and sanitary conditions in many places, and in towns where they have done nothing, a little search will disclose all the more to do. Tree-planting and protection, the placing of shrubbery, the establishment of parks and playgrounds, the care of a few natural beds of wild flowers—all these are but sub-divisions of the general subject of "How to Beautify Our Town," which may be recommended as a sensible source of school essays. The plan has already been adopted in a number of schools, with a success which warrants further use; and success here means not merely acceptable compositions and the requisite training in the writing of English, but not infrequently the more tangible fruit of permanent improvement in the city or town.

No Difficulty for United States Citizens to Become Canadians

A most matter of fact, sane and reasonable view of the difference in executive, prerogative between the King of the British Empire and the President of the United States is given in a dialogue in that highly interesting new volume, "The Book of the West," recently issued by its author, H. A. Kennedy. An Iowa farmer had come into Saskatchewan to settle. A neighbor said to him upon arrival: "You won't find it strange to become a Canadian?" "There is nothing strange about it," he said. "Friend of mine down there said to me, 'I ain't going to have no King riding over me!' Well, I told him the King was just a President, and brought up to the business, as no in-an-out President ever was. We have to elect one every four years, and you just elect one when you see there's need. And the best part of it is, chosen and brought up as he is, you have always got a President that's never been a party man and never can be, so all parties trust him. Mighty sensible plan, seems to me. Then your King never goes against his people and parliaments. He hasn't anything like the power of our President. Once a United States President gets in, he appoints what ministers he likes, and they are, planted for four years, no matter what happens, congress or no congress. Here in this Dominion of Canada, your Prime Minister is the only man that has anything like the power of our President, and even he has to do what parliament says, or get out. They talk about self-government. They've got it in Great Britain; and you've got it in Canada, a sight more of it than we have."

France and Germany Agree to Perpetual Peace

The Locarno Conference has amply warranted its assembling of representatives of the nations. Germany finally concluded that it was in the best interests of herself and all concerned, that agreement be made with the plans for world peace suggested by the majority of representatives of the League of Nations. Alternations of hope and fear held the public mind in suspense from the time the Allied and German representatives met at Locarno to discuss their national differences and find, if possible, a basis on which to establish a general pact for world peace. The tension upon the nerves of the peoples has been relieved by the intelligence received on Friday that the final text of the Rhineland pact has been adopted by the Conference, and that treaties guaranteeing security to France's allies on the eastern frontier of Germany have been agreed to by that country and assured of acceptance by the Powers. With the signing of the Locarno treaty Europe will reach the border of the promised land of peace and order and prosperity. It will remain for the individuals, under wise statesmanship to make the Locarno Convention the beginning of a new era in world policies, an era in which the development of mutual confidence and the practice of the sound doctrine for the general good of mankind will be regarded as the only real foundation on which the well-being, not only of the world at large, but of commonwealths, can securely rest. The Globe points out with loyal pride that it was a Canadian who presided over the body which gives final effect to the conclusions reached at Locarno by admitting Germany into the League of Nations as a member on equal footing with the other Powers. Senator Dandurand is the President of the Assembly. Nor is it less gratifying to realize that it was a Canadian proposal for the amendment to Article G of the League Covenant that made it possible to bring about the arrangement whereby Germany's membership was secured. With peace at hand, trade where expected to make a speedy recovery. Everywhere enterprise has been held in check by the uncertainties of the European situation.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The tacit endorsement of the candidature of Duncan Campbell, the Liberal candidate in Halton, by the convention of the Halton Progressive Association last week, is regarded by his friends as assuring Mr. Campbell's election beyond peradventure.

The formation of a Canadian Club in Cleveland draws attention to the fact that there are 10,000 Canadians in that city who have been driven from their home by our disastrous trade policy.—Mail and Empire. And what about the 12,400 Americans residing in Toronto to-day? Whose disastrous trade policy brought them to Canada?

The Oshawa Reformer took over the Oshawa Telegram last Monday, and Oshawa in future will be a one-paper city. The reason given is: "The amalgamation has been due to the rising costs of publication and is for purely business reasons." Newspaper editors have certainly been hard hit for several years past, the death list being a very extensive one.

The greatest prohibition campaign ever attempted in Great Britain is about to be launched after many months of quiet preparation. The keynote of the appeal will be to the mothers of the country. Among the prohibition speakers will be Hon. Philip Snowden, former Chancellor of the Exchequer; Mrs. David Lloyd George; Lady Donald McLean and Sir George Hunter.

"The men poke fun at the women when they vote for a man because he is good-looking, or they like his style, or they like his wife, or for some other sentimental reason," says the Main Street business girl, "but for the life of me I can't see why that isn't quite as sensible as it would be to vote for him because your great-grandfather would vote for him if he were here."—Shelbourne Economist.

A. E. Dobbie, of the Advertiser-Topic, Petrolia, has purchased the News-Argus, at Stirling, in Hastings County, and takes possession November 1. Mr. Dobbie is this year President of the Essex, Kent and Lambton Publishers Association, and his fellow-newspapermen throughout the province will wish him every success in his new field. Mr. Dobbie is a graduate of the Georgetown Herald, and is a credit to his alma mater.

Canada's foreign trade is growing with leaps and bounds. For the first half of the present fiscal year, which ended on September 30, the foreign trade of the Dominion exceeded that of the same period a year ago by \$144,804,920, according to the monthly statement just issued by the Department of Customs and Excise. The statement shows that Canadian trade for the six-month period just ended totalled \$1,030,589,762. The figures for the six months ended September 30, 1924, were \$885,784,833.

Neighborhood News--Town and Country

MILTON

Gairbairn & Co. are making extensive improvements to their store, principal among which is the putting in of a new counter front.

Miss H. E. Bantado, Milton, who has been a member of the F.O.D.E. for many years, painted a picture, "The Sunshine Girl," an original subject, and presented it to the F.O.D.E. room in the Peel Memorial Hospital.

Burlington boasts of a Chamber of Commerce. Milton had a Board of Trade a few years ago, but after functioning very well for a while, gradually wilted and died, like some of its predecessors. The soil here doesn't appear to be favorable to the growth of such institutions. Wonder why?

The service in St. Paul's United Church on Sunday evening was with gravity. In order that the members and adherents might have the opportunity of attending the anniversary service that evening to the Knox Presbyterian Church.—Reformer.

GEORGETOWN

The several selections rendered by our band Saturday night on the Main Street, were most successful.

Mrs. (Rev.) H. Caldwell attended the W.C.T.U. Provincial Convention held in Hamilton last week.

The Georgetown Fire Brigade accompanied by the members of the Municipal Council, attended divine services in order that the members and adherents might have the opportunity of attending the anniversary service that evening to the Knox Presbyterian Church.—Reformer.

Amateur services will be held in Knox Church, Georgetown, on Sunday, October 25, 1925.

R. W. Bro. E. Y. Barreclough, D. D. G. M., R. W. Bro. J. E. Wallace, W. Bro. G. Ford, S. Kirk, H. Diehl, A. Norrington and Bro. Rev. Percival Mayes, Chaplain, officiated at the consecration, dedication and installation of officers of Glenora Lodge, No. 628, A. F. & A. M.—Herald.

BURLINGTON

The Ladies of Trinity church are preparing for their annual bazaar to be held on December 4th.

The members of the Burlington Citizens' Band are making arrangements to hold a concert the first week in November.

Mr. Roy Early presented the Gazette with an apple on Tuesday that weighed 17 ounces. It was of the Baxter variety, and was grown in this district.

H. C. Breckon, of the Middle-road, had the misfortune last Tuesday to fall from an apple tree and break several ribs, besides receiving a bad shaking up.

Junior members of the Daughters of England are planning a Halloween party and masquerade in the lodge room on Thursday, October 29, from 6:30 to 8 o'clock.

Wentworth County Council has passed a by-law which makes it compulsory after December 1 for all vehicles to carry a rear light on the highways at night. Those who fail to take heed will soon be in trouble. Horse-driven and other vehicles must have a light going from dusk to dawn, if they want to travel the roads of this county. The penalty for violation of this by-law is \$10.—Gazette.

ERIN

At a meeting of Knox Presbyterian Church congregation at Palmerston, a hearty call was extended for all the ladies of the congregation to meet at the home of Mrs. J. A. Graham, on Wednesday, October 22, at 8 o'clock.

Mrs. J. A. Graham, of Palmerston, and Joseph Sanders, of Detroit, spent the week-end with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Sanders.

Miss Sylvia Tyrone, of Erin, visited with Miss Jean Abbott and other friends over the week-end.

Mrs. R. Reedy, of Erin, and daughter, of Brampton, were week-end visitors with Mrs. R. Fines.

Mrs. W. S. McKinnon and daughter, Marion, have returned to their home at Olds, Alberta, after visiting with Dr. and Mrs. Abbott.

Mrs. G. Anthony and daughter Doris, and son Dick, were week-end visitors with Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bumsbottom.

Miss Bertha Hamilton and her lady friend, of Woodbridge, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Hamilton.

Mr. H. C. Austin returned from his annual trip to Scotland, Sask., on Thursday evening last.

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Smith, Swains, and Dr. and Mrs. C. L. Eaton, Toronto, spent last week-end with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. McGill.

Mrs. D. McKinnon, Oranville, spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. (Dr.) Grant.

Mrs. F. Walker, of Hagerville, is visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Overland.

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Graham, Belmont, announce the engagement of their daughter, Marjorie Elizabeth, to Mr. Francis William Root, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Root, Hillsburg, the marriage to take place the latter part of October.

Last Friday morning was indeed a chilly reception for Erin Fair, with a bleak north wind and the odd flake of snow. However, around noon, the automobiles began to arrive from every direction and when the programme of sports commenced, an average crowd of approximately forty-five hundred had assembled. The exhibits in the hall, especially in the fancy work, fruit and flower and domestic science departments excelled former years.—Advocate.

TAPS

God of might,
Guard our boys;
God of peace,
God of life,
Save them all;
God of love,
Keep each one
Evermore.

THE PICKLES-TEST

There had been an epidemic of the mumps and every afternoon brought to the health department a number of children seeking permission to return to school. Sometimes no doctor was present and they had to wait. So, Doctor Carlin devised a means by which his secretary, Miss Curran, might test the applicants.

"Pickles are the thing," said Doctor Carlin. "If a person with the slightest trace of inflammation in the thyroid glands takes a bite of anything sharply sour, the face is instantly contorted. In extreme cases the pain is extreme." So a bottle of mixed pickles was added to the pharmacopoeia of the office.

Now, when there is no doctor in the office, Miss Curran lines up the applicants for certificates and goes down the line with the bottle of pickles. If the child takes the pickles and smiles as a healthy child should, he may go back to school again; but if he scowls in pain, he is condemned to stay at home.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR ALL MAGAZINES TAKEN AT THE FREE PRESS OFFICE

Were the "Good Old Days" Really Good?

When you hear an old-timer sigh for the days of his forefathers, smile quietly to yourself and think of this:

The ancients got along without automobiles, soap, stoves, tooth-brushes, window glass, breakfast foods, telephones—without practically all of the things we consider the bare essentials of life.

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