



The Acton Free Press

Member Canadian Weekly Newspaper
Member Selected Town Weeklies of Ontario

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H. P. MOORE, President and Editor
G. A. DILLS, Manager and Assistant Editor

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Residence of President 112
Residence of Manager 113

The Ever-Present Wage Question

In the early days in the history of this North American continent, labor and wages were just as vexed questions as they are in our day. A page in the Journal of Governor Winthrop, written in November, 1636, says: "The scarcity of workmen had caused them to raise wages to an excessive rate, so as a carpenter would have three shillings a day, a laborer two shillings a day and sixpence, etc., and accordingly those who had commodities to sell, advanced their prices somewhat double to what they cost in England. So as it grew to a general complaint, which the courts, taking knowledge of, as also of some further evils which were springing out of the excessive rate of wages, they made an order that carpenters, masons, etc., should take but two shillings the day, and laborers but eighteen pence, and that no commodity should be sold at above four pence in the shilling more than it cost for ready money in England."

Neighborhood News—Town and Country

GEORGETOWN

The auto accident on Monday evening reminds us once again how hazardous it is to be riding in small wagons and sleighs on the highway pavement. For the sake of the children themselves, the Town Council has asked the Herald to request parents to warn their children of the danger of such practices.

The disastrous conduct and blasphemy of some young men who came to town last Thursday night, necessitated the calling of Chief Jackson to John Street about 2 a.m. on Friday morning. We understand that the guilty parties got out of sight before the Chief's arrival, but they had better go easy on the occasion of their next visit to town.

Mrs. E. C. Thompson and Mrs. D. J. Mathew attended the meeting of the Provincial Council for Women held in Toronto last Friday.—Herald.

ERIN

A school concert will be held in the Binkham School, on Monday evening, December 21st.

A Christmas concert will be held in the Connelley School, No. 5, Erin, on Thursday evening, December 17.

Mr. P. O. McLean of St. John's, N.B., is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hush and other friends.

Mr. Hilliard Davidson, of Beaver Lodge, Alberta, arrived home on Tuesday to spend the vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Davidson. Mrs. Davidson left last week for Florida, where she intends spending the winter.

Mrs. J. H. Smith is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Curtis House at Beamsville.


A large number of farmers are engaged in cutting Christmas trees for buyers from Toronto. They are being shipped to Toronto via C.P.R.

Mr. Reg. Stuart left recently to visit with friends at Beamsville, after which he intends sailing for England, where he will spend the Yuletide with his parents and brothers and sisters.

The anniversary services of Burns' Presbyterian Church were conducted both morning and evening on Sunday last, by Rev. W. Hanna, of Elmville, when large congregations assembled.

A sitting of the Court of Revision of the Township of Erin will be held at Hillsburgh on Saturday, 28th of December, at two o'clock, P.M., for the purpose of hearing complaints against the proposed assessments.

Wallace, baritone, of Hillsburgh, along with 1,100 other boys and girls, attended the Fourth National Boys and Girls Congress during the international Live Stock Exposition last week at Chicago. Wallace won his educational trip offered by Hillsburgh School Board for excelling in Agriculture Clubs.—Advocate.



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THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 17, 1923

EDITORIAL

The New Council's Municipal Programme

The members-elect of the Council for 1923, are, no doubt, doing some serious thinking these days, relative to the municipal activities of the coming year. The members are all anxious to do their best for the town, while exercising a due regard for an economical administration of the affairs of the municipality. That a careful survey of the programme of needed improvements suggested in these columns a few weeks ago, is being made is quite evident when conversation with the coming members is had. The effort will likely be made to carry into successful inauguration and intelligent advancement the timely work outlined. In fact, members themselves are suggesting additional matters which also demand action. Among these are the repainting of the waterworks tower, which is showing signs of encrustment of rust; the repainting of the street hydrants; the adoption of improved Hydro street-lighting brackets for the portions of the streets in the business section, and other minor improvements which mean much in the preservation and improvement of the town's properties.

The Physical Value of the Electric Lines

The electric railways have much to their credit in these days of changing conditions. As the electric trolley-car whizzes along the country roads on a summer evening, its most obvious use is the giving of cheap and healthful pleasure to people who are tired with the work of the day. For they utilize it freely. But there is much else to be set down to its credit. More cheaply constructed than the steam lines, and comparatively indifferent to grades, the electric railroad finds its way to many small villages and through communities which were left to one side when the great steam railways were built. It brings the summer visitor, the people of rural sections, and it gives the farmer a chance to reach a larger market. Statistics show a tendency toward a crowding population into cities. This is because the city offers both opportunities for employment and for social pleasure. But the trolley-car draws city people into the country, and if its extension continue, it will have an appreciable effect on the density of population in the country and in the smaller towns and villages. Rural real estate where the trolley-car has already reached, has risen in value from ten to twenty-five per cent. This effect is most apparent near the larger cities. Fifty years ago, people who did business in cities had to live there. What are now closely-built suburbs were then rural districts, reached only after hours of riding, by private conveyance or a line of omnibuses. The trolley-cars have extended the suburbs to include large areas suitable for residence, and will grow from year to year to wider areas. Among the advantages of modern life, we must give the trolley-car a conspicuous place.

Fergus Appoints a Cemetery Commission

The Fergus News-Record says: "This week we feel like offering our hearty congratulations to Councillor A. L. Steele and the other members of the Council for 1923 upon their action at the regular meeting on Monday night in placing the care of Belside Cemetery under a Commission. The Council this year has done many things of importance, but we feel that this is the best thing that they have done so far, even though it has cost nothing to perform. For years the care of the cemetery has been left entirely to the enterprise of the superintendent without assistance from those in authority, while the funds derived from the sale of plots have gone into the general funds of the village and have done a little to keep down the tax rate. The basis of organization under the commission is as follows: The Cemetery to be put in the hands of a commission (1) Same to be appointed for a term of two years. (2) Commissioners to be three in number, the Reeve to be one member. (3) That all moneys derived from sale of plots, etc., go into a separate fund and all moneys paid in trust for perpetual upkeep to go into a like fund. (4) That the caretaker be appointed yearly, and paid out of said funds. (5) That Commission have all power to add to above regulations. The above regulations will be remodelled according to statute. This is precisely the plan the Free Press has urged upon Acton Council for years. The Council for 1923 may well follow the example set by Fergus. No act would more fully commend itself to the public, and no other municipal commission could be more justifiably with less cost to the ratepayers, or be more satisfactory to the community. We have no confidence in believing the Council for the coming year will promptly take this important matter into consideration, and that intelligent action and definite arrangements will result."

Canada's Success at Wembley

The Simcoe Reformer reports a speech in which W. G. Jackson, of that town, admits Wembley was beyond fond expectations, "but while Australia has a magnificent exhibit, portraying life and living conditions in that dominion, and arranged for the express purpose of attracting immigrants to their country, the Canadian display, though carefully arranged, did not emphasize the fact that settlers were neither wanted nor needed in this country. In his opinion a grave mistake had been made in overlooking this point." Mr. Jackson's experiences at Wembley were very manifestly different from those of the visitors to the Canadian building and exhibits generally. The writer found conditions exactly the reverse to that reported in the speech referred. And to this the editor of the Reformer can himself testify. The exhibit made by Canada was studiously arranged to attract settlers of the better classes to our country. The presentation of our great farming areas, our fruit-growing possibilities, our forests and mines, our manufacturing industries, and our great resources generally, were most vividly set forth. The British artisans, the farmers, the mechanics, and the public school and college students visiting the great fair, were all outspoken in their admiration of Canada and Canada's opportunities. Numbers from all these classes were overheard expressing their favorable opinions, and their determination, sooner or later, to make Canada their home. Students and scholars were especially free in expressing hopes of coming to Canada in the near future. "That is the country I am going to choose for my home," was to be heard on all sides from the lips of these delighted visitors from British colleges and schools, and they visited the Canadian building and the exhibits it contained by tens of thousands.

Parents Who "Fail to Pass"

In our Public Schools the advanced pupils are earnestly engaged in studying those subjects allotted for the High School entrance examinations next June. The same is true of the students in the High Schools who have entrance to normal or matriculation work to master for the departmental examinations which come prior to the midsummer holidays next year. When an entrance pupil or a High School student fails to pass his examinations, or drops behind in the routine work of his studies, it is on him that his parents and his teachers usually place the blame. To him it belongs in most cases, but not all of it, and perhaps in any case, not all of it. His parents, too, have a responsibility, and it is often they who have "failed to pass," rather than the boy or girl. A teacher telephoned to the mother of one of her pupils a few months ago, to suggest that he was not putting time enough on his lessons. "Why," said the mother, "I expect you to attend to that." "Madam," the teacher answered, "Johnnie is only one of my pupils, but he is all the son you have." The school provides opportunities for learning; the parents must see that the child uses them. Do you, Mr. Blank, point out to your boy the personal and the business value of an education? Do you help him, to select the courses that will be most useful to him? Do you see that during that time he is not interrupted? Do you provide a quiet place for him to study in, or must he prepare his lessons in the midst of all the distractions of a family evening? When he has a hard problem to solve, do you work it out for him, or do you give him the judicious help that will enable him to work it out himself? Do you make him take daily exercises in the open air? Do you see that he has nine hours of sleep every night, so that he can go to school fresh and alert? Do you insist that he eat a good breakfast? Do you try to prevent him from scattering his mental and physical energies by going to theaters, pool rooms, picture shows, dances and club meetings, or loafing about the street corners during the week? Do you know your child's teachers, and do you ever go to school to talk over with them his progress, and to find out what his difficulties are? If you will answer these questions honestly, you will know whether it is your child who has "failed to pass," or you.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The third session of the present Ontario Legislative Assembly will open the last week of January. It promises to be an eventful session.

Mr. J. J. Hunter, editor of the Kincardine Review-Reporter, is prominently mentioned as likely to be the Liberal candidate at the next Provincial election in South Bruce.

War pensioners have been notified at the beginning of winter they can no longer receive extra relief grants in special cases. This Government economy does not appear to be very popular.

The Corporation of the City of Glasgow recently banned the use of intoxicating liquors at civic functions, and now the City of Aberdeen has followed Glasgow's lead, by declaring that at civic ceremonies hereafter, liquor will be prohibited.

The annual tax of three cents per gallon has been levied by the Provincial Government \$2,000,000 in five years, and the total will reach \$3,000,000 in 1924. This is evidently doing a

MILTON

Master John White, second son of Mr. George White, was operated upon last week for appendicitis and is making good progress toward recovery.

Mr. H. C. Clemons, who was operated upon for appendicitis in the Toronto General Hospital last Friday, is making good progress toward recovery, and is pleased to be home.

The bazaar given by the Women's Auxiliary of Grace Church Thursday and Friday evenings, was very successful with a brisk demand for them, and the proceeds were close on \$100.

Mrs. and Mrs. R. J. Mill St. wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Clara Bell, to Mr. Alexander Gray, Parkville, on Monday evening, the 21st inst.—Reformer.

NASSAGAWEYA

The old-fashioned tea-meeting in the United Church last Wednesday evening was an unusual success. The old-fashioned tea was true to its name in so far as abundance and quality were concerned, and a large crowd present did ample justice to the delectable provisions. And the programme was just as good as the supper. It was comparatively brief, but meritorious and enjoyable. The Bennett Family Orchestra, of Carleton Place, comprising eight members, appeared more frequently than any of the other artists, and their selections were received with much applause. Numbers numerous, and to all the respondents generously. Their music was highly entertaining. The Rockwood Quartette, Messrs. Elliot, Peck, Green and Little, with Mr. Moore as accompanist, rendered several numbers with much acceptance and applause. Campbellville delighted the audience with her piano numbers. She also accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Elliott in their excellent duets. Mr. Roy Hinde lived up to his reputation as an eloquentist. It is quite apparent that his experience as an audience has given him a giftness of speech and a grace of expression which materially assist in his interpretation of the well-selected numbers he recites. Rev. Mr. Marsh, the minister, presided with his usual dignity.

OAKVILLE

The Court of Revision of the Oakville municipal voters' list was held last Thursday by Judge Elliot of Milton. Ten appeals were sustained. The general opinion prevails that it may be difficult to find enough candidates for all municipal offices in next year's election.

Miss Marjorie Acheson, teacher of Central School, was forced to stop an operation this week, and will be unable to take up her duties until after the holidays.

A throng of citizens crowded the assembly hall of the High School last Wednesday afternoon on the opening of the season of the Men's Athletic. At the next meeting of the Town Council the Oakville Business Men's Association will offer a donation towards the removing to town property of the St. John's United Church sheds which are being offered to the town by the church.

The High School report for December gave an attendance of 88 boys and 12 girls, making a total of 100 students. The teaching staff is stated to have improved considerably over that of last year and the general organization and discipline is commendable.

The men of Knox Church gathered on Tuesday night and listened to an excellent programme of music and speeches. The occasion was the first banquet of the season and the forming of a Men's Association.

A flying burning match-head caused a brief but spectacular fire in the Knox Drug store window yesterday afternoon. The window was richly decorated with valuable Christmas goods, some of it of a very inflammable nature, and before the fire was extinguished, an approximate loss of \$300.00 was sustained.—Record.

BURLINGTON

The Council has decided that it is to be this year to consider the long-talked-of street car proposition. The Trinity United Church Sunday School are making arrangements to present the pageant, "Light of the World," in the church on December 18.

The Burlington Lawn Bowling Assn. is going to put on a minstrel show next month.

About 100 rods of wire fencing and 30 galvanized posts have mysteriously disappeared from a farm on the Guelph line, which was being used to fence the property of a burglar.

Messrs. Allen Davidson, Paul Fisher, Cecil Miller and Ross Prescott left on Thursday last on a motor trip to Florida, where they will spend the next six months sight-seeing in the sunny south.

On Friday evening a number of the members of the Daughters of England surprised Mrs. Jocelyn on her birthday by having a unexpected visit to her home and presenting her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers in honor of the occasion.

The pollution of the bay waters with oil and chemicals from Hamilton industries is raising the locality for wild duck and other waterfowl. Many of the wild ducks are unable to fly when their wings become saturated with oil and chemicals and are being captured in the rushes and along the shores, where they tried to hide from the hunters.

At "Fruit Grove" farm, Nelson Township, on December 8, a charming wedding was solemnized in the presence of a large number of guests. The bride, Miss Elsie, was united in marriage to Mr. Russell Charles Raspberry, of Milton. The Rev. R. H. Walker officiated. Mr. and Mrs. Raspberry left by motor for Rochester and other American points.—Gazette.

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Office and Residence—Corner Bower Avenue and Elgin Street.

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DR. E. J. NELSON
FREDERICK STREET
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