

**The Home of the Action Free Press**

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THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 21, 1929

**EDITORIAL**

**Our Reason for the Action**

The question of reporting School Board matters and meetings has been a vexed one it seems for some time in Acton. Memory seems to recall that before our troublesome times of the past year the meetings were not regularly reported. But a year or so ago the trouble was buried, whatever it was, and THE FREE PRESS was invited to attend and report School Board proceedings. We tried to be faithful to the request, but seemingly we didn't play up the activities, as was done with other bodies. Maybe we didn't attend all the sessions. At any rate, at the nomination last year we were charged by a Board member with not giving full publicity to school matters and giving the glory to this body that other municipal bodies received in our columns. At that nomination meeting we pointed out the difficulties in connection with reporting all the activities and asked the member if in his recollection the Board had requested any item to be omitted from the reports. From his criticism it would appear the reports were inadequate. Failure once is excusable, but we made a resolve to use our best endeavors the next year to report every meeting of the School Board that it was possible or lay the blame where it belonged. That was our reason solely for stating that one of the motions was deleted from THE FREE PRESS report at the request of the Board at the meeting of May 15. We made no further comment. The next issue of THE FREE PRESS contained three letters from citizens regarding the Board's action, which was not reported, and the report of a meeting from which the editor was expelled by resolution of Mrs. B. M. Wilson and Mrs. A. F. Havill. These two Trustees and Trustee Masters voted for the resolution. Trustee Beswick was opposed and Trustees G. R. Agnew and Chairman Hall did not express themselves. We made the following comment on that meeting:

"It would appear that the School Board do desire meetings reported in part, but desire to delete those items which they know will bring criticism. If such is the case, we agree with them that THE FREE PRESS will necessarily need to be excluded from the meetings. Their action at the last two meetings has shown that they prefer to conduct certain of the School affairs without the confidence of the public and the light of publicity."

The comment on the question under consideration up to this point had come from citizens. A letter from the Board or any member would have found a place as readily in the column "Letters to the Editor," but none was offered.

**As We Promised**

In the issue of THE FREE PRESS of July 25, in an editorial referring to School Board matters and our second refusal of admission to Board meetings, we find the following statement made:

"And fortunately or unfortunately, the editor of THE FREE PRESS again withdrew as requested. We have our own reasons for this action we took, regardless of the rights set forth by other editors. We don't care to handle the situation along that line, and at present are not prepared to state our reasons for this procedure. We can assure one and all, however, they will be divulged before the end of the year."

And further down in the same editorial this appears:

"After our first encounter we said we would leave the matter to be settled by the public, who are the supreme judges in all cases of public administration. We haven't as yet had any reason to change our decision. And having been reporting public meetings and discussing them for years, we have no personal feelings left in these situations, but only proceed to keep the public informed from week to week as the occasion arises."

Now is the time we had reference to in that editorial to give our reasons and on Nominations and Election Days are the times when the matters can be settled by the public, who are the supreme judges in all cases of public administration." Hence this and the editorials which follow.

**Then**

Because we had come on verbal invitation to report the Board meetings, we wrote a letter to the Board, asking that a definite understanding be arrived at in regard to reporting of Public School Board meetings, and asked that a reply be written for publication. And the reply from the Secretary read:

"In reply I beg to state that I have been instructed by the Board to inform you that they would welcome a reporter at their meetings, if the transactions reported, and that you will receive due notice of all meetings."

Please note the letter said, "all meetings." And we expressed our pleasure that the issue was apparently settled. The Board meetings were almost every week then, and on June 6 we reported a meeting, where a largely signed petition was presented. The following week we made our first editorial comment on the question dealing with the signed petition, and it was headed "Care and Consideration," and asked for the careful consideration of the petition presented. Further meetings followed almost weekly. Some were informed of and of some we weren't, and on July 22 we attended a "gathering," to which we were not invited, and were told we were not wanted, and

**Neighborhood News**

**BURLINGTON**

Mr. John Johnson was happy to see the children for the Thanksgiving holidays. The children of Burlington, Ontario, represented acquaintances in town over the holiday.

Harold Campbell spent the Thanksgiving holidays at his home at Owen Sound.

Mrs. Edith Leach and son, Douglas, of Milton, are spending a few days with her parents here.

According to reports received from the local hunters, deer is quite plentiful in the north this season.

Rev. E. Van and Mrs. Tilton, Jack and Ethel, spent Thanksgiving with Mr. Tilton, at the old homestead at Tiltonville, Harold Thorne, Dennis Smith, Bruce Konkle, Donald McMillan and Milford Harshaw were home from Queen's University, Kingston, over Thanksgiving.

A meeting of the High School Grade executive was held on Friday evening in regard to the placing of an intermediate team in the O. H. A.

Major E. Grech, of Ashgrove, was at the capture and conviction of the thieves who stole chickens from the farm of Mr. T. J. Smith, on Middle Road, and received the reward of \$25.00 from the Township of Nelson Protection Society.

On Wednesday evening last about seven o'clock a truck crashed into the "A" building, the new cement being laid, causing a radical crack. A board was raised through the windshield of the truck, and the driver was somewhat cut by flying glass.—Gazette.

**GEORGETOWN**

Mrs. A. Hyde is visiting friends in Bridgeburg, Ontario.

Mrs. Dora Gamble, of Orillia spent the holiday with her mother.

Dr. P. L. Heath spent Thanksgiving Day with friends at Niagara.

Mr. R. H. Woodworth, of Toronto, spent the week-end at his home here.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Thompson spent the holiday with friends in Paris.

Mrs. C. J. Russell, of Gormley was a visitor in town during the week.

Mrs. Will Edmiston of Daley, Sask., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Halliattine.

Mrs. W. P. Stull, of St. Catharines, is spending the week with friends in town and vicinity.

Major O. Conness has been appointed Post Superintendent at Ashgrove, and will be held in Toronto, this month.

Mr. and Mrs. John Fisher of Saginaw, Mich., are spending a few days at W. Fisher's, Ashgrove.

Rev. and Mrs. Cordwell, of Guelph, and Mrs. Wright, of Sask., were guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Honey on Thanksgiving Day.

Mrs. James and Leslie Fisher, and Miss Isabel Fisher, of Ashgrove, were at Saginaw, Mich., last week attending the wedding of their brother, John.

The community musical service held in commemoration of Armistice Day and in honor of the men who gave their lives in the Great War, was the most impressive and most largely attended since the close of the war. Nearly every organization, society and church in town took part in the service of prayer and silence in Memory of those who sleep in Flanders' Field.—Herald.

**Decision Days Have Come**

The solution of many municipal problems is made on Election Day. It doesn't matter so much if an editor or reporter has the door shut in his face, told he is not wanted, or that he is not a gentleman or other uncomplimentary things. Most of them get accustomed to such things in their service of securing the news that their readers feel they are entitled to know. Public business can be carried on in the full knowledge of the public and when conducted in this way usually is for the best interests of the community. Persons can be elected who know how to do business along these lines. The Council and other public bodies have proven the truth of this statement. On Nominations and Election Days the electors are the final supreme judges we had reference to earlier in the year. They can speak regarding the conduct of their business. They can answer whether a public body, in considering a petition, gives consideration to it or merely reads the name and criticizes the signers. Rumor has it that some members have not decided whether they will undertake the duties again this year or not. Several new candidates are mentioned in other rumors. The ratepayers' innings will be on these two days. We have told and shown why the School Board meetings do not receive publicity. If the public believe them their business on Election Day they can put into office individuals who can conduct business with public confidence, and that will bear the scrutiny of the ratepayers. The issues are now up for decision by the ratepayers. Do the ratepayers believe they have a right to know the proceedings of a public body that administers the spending of \$18,000 yearly? Election time is the time to settle these questions decisively.

**EDITORIAL NOTES**

The hockey club is organized and getting ready for the season. Actonians are preparing to make full use of the facilities of the new Arena, when completed.

The School concerts of the past week were a credit to teachers and pupils alike. Music in the schools has little or no opposition now when such splendid results can be exhibited.

We regret that one subject has monopolized so much of our editorial space this week, but we felt it a duty to clean up a befogged issue in the municipality at this time and give light on the case. We hope it will not happen again in years and years and years.

During the calendar year 1928 more than 19,790,000 pounds of process cheese were produced in Canada, of which 6,719,000 pounds were exported, leaving 13,071,000 pounds for home consumption. During the previous calendar year, production in Canada of this type of cheese amounted to 15,386,000 pounds of which 3,725,000 pounds were exported, leaving 11,661,000 pounds for home consumption.

**DOWN BUT NOT OUT**

"The way for you to straighten out your financial difficulties is to live within your means for a while, until you get square."

"Within our means? I should say not. We may be poor, but we're not as badly off as all that."—Montreal Star.

**NOTHING INSIDE**

The stout lady on the staircase was eagerly watched by two small boys. They dropped in her dress, but the machine was out of order and only registered severity—the pounds. "Good night, MUM," quavered the youngsters in embarrassment, she'll follow!

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Anyone suffering from Eye-strain, Defective Vision or Headache should not miss the opportunity of consulting this eyesight specialist. Appointments may be made with Mr. A. T. Brown, Druggist.

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**DR. J. H. JOHNSON, D.D.S., L.D.S.**  
Dental Surgeon  
Office: 1111 Street, in the Cooper Block  
TELEPHONE 45

**A. J. BUCHANAN, D. D. S.**  
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**Farmer's Not Immune**  
Working outdoors in the fresh air, as they do, would hardly expect to see a farmer in the condition of Fred. However, farmers overwork themselves, too especially when they are young, and sometimes have a family to support. Fred couldn't shake it off, and finally the trouble settled in his lungs.

"It was a lucky day for me," said Fred, "when the doctor got me into the Muskoka Hospital for consumption, for I was going down hill fast. He was, but now with expert medical care, rest and proper food, he is putting his way back to health at home."

Does the Muskoka Hospital bring relief and hope to the victims of consumption? Has it helped you? If not, it must appeal to you.

Will you please send a contribution to the Muskoka Hospital, c/o A. J. Ames, 22 College Street, Toronto 2.