



THE HOME OF

The Acton Free Press

Member Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association

Member Ontario-Quebec Division C. W. N. A.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS is published every Thursday evening at The Free Press Building, 531 Mill Street, Acton, Ontario. The subscription price is \$2.00 per year, in advance. Postage is charged additional to offices in the United States. The date to which subscriptions are paid is indicated on the address label.

ADVERTISING RATES.—For small unclassified advertisements, and in other columns, the rates will be found at head of column. Display advertising rates on application.

G. A. DILLIS, Editor and Proprietor

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Merry Christmas to All

The Editor at this time of year is just like everyone else and enjoys the opportunity of wishing everyone a merry Christmas, but this year has the pleasure of wishing his merry Christmas right on Christmas eve. Last year we had to send it out a week ahead, and some way or other that Christmas feeling seems to demand expression right at Christmas. It's all right to do the Christmas shopping early, but the Christmas wishes come best at Christmas. To-morrow is Christmas and we wish everyone who reads this message and many others who would like to reach, the merriest and most joyous Christmas they have ever had. We could enumerate our readers, advertisers, correspondents, staff, patrons of job department, etc., but we might omit in our list, and we could never compile a complete list. So we say—a merry Christmas to all.

It's Here

Once again that event so eagerly anticipated by the children, both young and old, has rolled around and it's the merry Christmas time. As usual it is merry in varying degrees for people in various walks of life, but none the less merry in spite of circumstances. He who has the most in worldly possessions may not have the most merry Christ. The Christmas spirit has been at work all this month and in some practical minds all year and to-night and to-morrow we culminate this work in the giving (and receiving). And after all isn't the greatest joy in seeing the other fellow open his parcels. That's the Christmas spirit that makes the effort worth while. It may be a card or an expensive gift, but the joy of being remembered by a friend and the magnitude of being remembered by your friends all at once is the reason that Christmas is outstanding in the mind of all. The gifts may not be as large this year. In many instances they cannot afford to be. Santa Claus may not be just as generous as he has been in other years, but that loving spirit that prevails and whose generosity is limited only by its capabilities is the thing that makes Christmas merry.

Canada's Net Debt Increases

The net debt of the Dominion of Canada increased to the extent of \$22,381,938 during the 12 months which ended November 30 last, according to the monthly statement issued through the Department of Finance. The statement shows that the debt stood at \$2,185,733,137 on November 30. The statement, which represents only receipts and expenditures actually passed through the books of the Finance Department up to November 30, indicates decreased ordinary revenues and increased ordinary expenditures during the eight months of the present fiscal year now completed. The decrease in the ordinary revenues, as compared with those of the corresponding eight months of year ago, totals \$57,498,520. Ordinary expenditures show an increase of \$12,522,630. Total ordinary revenue for the eight months just concluded was \$261,720,300. For the corresponding period a year ago it amounted to \$310,218,838. Ordinary expenditure this year totals \$252,457,478, as against \$230,884,848 for the eight months last year. The statements represent only the receipts and payments which have passed through the books of the Department of Finance up to the last day of November. According to it the net debt of the Dominion now stands at \$2,185,733,137, or an increase of \$22,381,938 in the 12 months since November 30, 1929.

Get Your Tree Right
The thieving of Christmas trees has been just as flagrant this year as in past seasons and many a farmer's bush has been ravaged and the finest procurable tree secured to make a Christmas tree for some home. These trees are the property and goods of the farmer as much as the goods on the shelf of any merchant. They are spread over a wide area and it is more difficult for the farmer to keep his eye on them—therefore the chances of getting caught are smaller. But when one of these trees is taken without the knowledge or consent of the owner of the property it is theft. One might say that the value is small. So is the value of everything in Woolworth's store, but just try some day going in there and helping yourself and see how far you will get with your load. If your tree was secured under the wrong circumstances, make a resolve right now to not let it occur again.

Let Us All Join
Acton's Community Christmas Tree will materialize to-night in the annual community gathering. It is made possible by the direction of the Loyal True Blues of Acton and the assistance of citizens in various walks of life and other bodies. The lighting, the singing and music and the gathering of all in a great community gathering are worth while. Practical minds may often feel that the effort is not necessary and the funds could be put to more practical gifts. If life were to be all practical without the little enjoyable things thrown in it would be a dull, drab existence. All fun is not good but that gathering once a year around the community tree has something to it that seems to be far-reaching. Let us all join to-night as a community banded in an effort to maintain the Christmas spirit in song and thanksgiving, and the spreading of cheer among the little folks.

EDITORIAL NOTES
Isn't it a splendid plan to have the municipal election turmoil all over before the Christmas season and not interfering with the joyous spirit of the Christmastide.
From now until January first the news of the world will be confined to glaring headlines about the Toronto elections. After all, even the city dailies are only local papers of a multitude of pages.

The value of a factory in a community was shown last week when at the annual meeting of the Ontario Memorial Company in Acton it was seen that this plant had expended over \$23,000 in wages during the year.

Acton's grant of \$2,000 for relief work on unemployment may seem small in connection with other grants given but it seems very much in keeping with the situation, when it is considered the amount must be used before March.

This is the "night before Christmas" that has been eagerly anticipated by so many. And to-morrow will be Christmas Day. May it be more than a day of feasting and be a realization of the birthday of Christ and the joy that it has brought to the world.

In North Bay and Sudbury all transients seeking shelter at the public expense are required to give a few hours' labor in return for the bed and meals. This is a good idea. The honest man will be relieved of being made a beggar and the exercise will be good for the lazy fellow.

The Post Office has been a busy place this past week, but the larger staff, efficiently captained by Postmaster Matthews and Deputy Postmistress Miss F. Brown, have risen to the occasion and none were disappointed by the non-delivery of their Christmas parcels at the Acton Post Office.

Two new leaders will face each other when the Ontario Legislature opens its next session. The new Premier, Hon. G. S. Henry, will lead the Government forces, and the new leader of the Liberal group, Mr. Hepburn, will have charge of the minority following. It will likely be interesting, to say the least.

The Mail and Empire says: "The idea of the Toronto Hockey Club in having its programme printed in a workshop outside Toronto is that, after all, most of the members of the team come from outside Toronto also." And we might add that a further reason may have been that all its supporters don't reside within the city limits.

The improvements in road construction and the permanent work accomplished this year in conjunction with County Council assistance in Esqueving Township have been the subject of much compliment to Reeve Cleave and Deputy Reeve Currie this year. They have been worthy representatives apparently at the County Council.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm
Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

Neighbors, did you ever hear of politics in a henhouse? You didn't? Well, as a matter of fact, neither have I, but I have seen the results of it. Of course when I tell you all about it you may put it down to other things and everyone has a right to their own opinion.
It's like this—when the price of eggs was high we were getting plenty of eggs and they were making quite a difference to the family income, then came this rumor of eggs from British Columbia flooding the home market, and more rumors of eggs selling at fifteen cents a dozen in Chicago and rumors and more rumors of cheap eggs here, there and everywhere, and then there were letters from hard-billed political enthusiasts giving this as a reason and that as a remedy, which, after reading, left one more at sea than before. Now we have always heard that newspaper tacked up in the henhouse is a good preventative against hens eating eggs, so of course we have newspapers tacked up in our henhouse, which are renewed from time to time, as is needed. Quite unintentionally we tacked up papers about two weeks ago which conveyed the information to all who ran to read that the bottom had dropped clean out of the egg market and would you believe it, our super-intelligent hens were so disheartened at the alleged state of affairs that about fifty per cent. of them went on strike immediately. The other fifty per cent. don't belong to the trade union, so they are still on the job.

Having read thus far you will at least admit that politics has far reaching results, but not wishing to start a controversial subject, I will not divulge to which party our feathered friends belong. There has been great excitement going on these days as the children were looking forward to their Christmas concert. Last night the great event took place. Daddy was told to be sure and get his chores done early as we were to be there by quarter to eight and the concert was to start at eight o'clock sharp. Thus admonished by daughter Molly we put our best feet forward and were there in plenty of time. There is nothing we enjoy more than to see entertainments given by children and so far we have seen nothing to surpass the one we saw last night. The children's singing was just wonderful—far better than some performers I have seen put on by adults. What a splendid thing is enthusiasm, and what a preference it can make in any kind of this kind. Most of the children fairly sparkled—some were a little too nervous, but all of them were obviously doing their very best and were a great credit to those who had worked so hard to make the concert a success. It was quite a treat to watch one boy in particular who was throwing himself heart and soul into the singing and watching every note of the teacher who was conducting the singing. He stood in the very front row but I really believe he was absolutely unconscious of the audience facing him.

There have been other things going on to interest farm people and town people alike, and that is relief work. I have been interested in nothing the different ways that are adopted to bring in funds for this work. In one town someone must have had a brain wave as a performance was put on at the local picture show and the entry fee was anything in the edible line. People came with fruit, vegetables, flour, canned goods, home baking, sacks of potatoes, in fact, almost everything that can be thought of fit for human consumption, and what a collection they must have had. The voluntary band of workers must have had a great time afterwards, sorting and distributing this miscellaneous shower of goodies.
In our own district a concert was put on and the proceeds given towards relief. The returns were very gratifying and I am sure their efforts must have been appreciated, but no is inevitable in anything of this nature about two-thirds of the money taken in was eaten up by expenses. Now, I wonder is this worth while? If a concert or play is put on, with the idea of developing local talent, then their end is accomplished but if the main idea is to raise money in a time of need in the quickest and most efficient way would it not be more to the point to appeal to the public and raise a subscription?

Concerts, bazaars, dances, card parties all have their place in the scheme of things, and could hardly be eliminated, but when distress is evident and relief urgent, could we not waive aside past traditions and a committee, each one working as hard as she or he belonged to a concert party, get right out and appeal to every person in town or country who is able to contribute in some way to alleviate want and suffering.

ANOTHER RECORD BROKEN
"Seventeen thousand, four hundred and fifty words, the equivalent of the normal number on two pages of a newspaper, written with a pen on a hot card is believed to be a world record, and is the achievement of M. Prout, a bank cashier in Nimes, France. There are 203 lines of writing on the card. The previous record was 12,500 words.
So minute is M. Prout's writing that few were convinced it was not a photographic reproduction of a larger manuscript. All doubts, however, were settled when the Pasteur Institute, to which the card was sent, certified after close examination under a microscope, that the work had actually been done with a pen."

'SLATS' DIARY
BY BOSS PARQUHAR
Friday—ma and pa had been having a few birds this evening that is ma had the birds and pa played the part of an audience and this evening Mr. Gillem dropped in for a game of checkers and Bigley Williams was up stars I herk pe and Mr. Gillem how did he get along with his better 1/2 and Mr. Gillem replied and answered. Well I haven't never been able to figure that out.
Saturday—Hills-berra was bragging about his grandpa today because he was eighty 9 yrs of old age. well I don't think that is so much to brag about because it has tuk him all most a life time to do it.
Sunday—wile we was at Hills-berra house this p. m. ma and Hills-berra the old wane was at-witch had been handed down for fore Generations and Hills-berra smiled and said that his grandpa had drapt it yesterday. And it is not no more.
Monday—Clem Braut was a telling pa that a couple weeks ago he told his wife he was a thinking of getting a divorce from her so she hantent spoke to him she then so now he dussent half to werry about no divorce.
Tuesday—Uncel Iton was in town today and went & boughten a lot of Malt. I thot at 1st he was a going to try to get sum Malted milk meby from his cows but pa winks at Ant Emmy and sed this hantent got anything to do with new cows. Slim foken makes me tired with there remarks on the side to each other.
Wednesday—Teacher diddnt meneth no names today but she looked at me when she was talking. she sed They are sum kids witch dussent no mutch but they try to lorn and they are sum kids witch dussent no mutch and you cant lorn them nothing. I dont no if I blushed or not but meby I wined a little.
Thursday—Jaken wank had started a drug store and was a getting along fine all yesterday and sum gey comes in with a Perakiptilon and now James uncle says he will half to go and put in a stook of drugs.
Vordan Hahn is inevitably chosen by discerning women. Delightful to use. Subtly fragrant. Cooling and refreshing. Imparts a rare youthful charm to the complexion. Invaluable for softening and making hands flawlessly white. Tones and stimulates the skin. Careful for the family also. Protects the tender skin of the child and is excellent for the father as a hair fixative and cooling shaving lotion.
Why is a Christmas pudding like a dusty carpet?
Because it takes a lot of beating.

PLAYING TO WIN
How would you define success? Make a fair trial, and if you should have any time left over try your hand at that fine old puzzle of describing a gentleman. You realize, of course, that this is a hazardous game. It is like turning the pockets of your own mind and nature inside out!
While you are deciding whether to risk it or not, you might like to hear about a young French soldier in the spring of 1917 who played well the two parts of a gentleman and a success.
It was a bad time on the French front. A colonel of infantry appeared one night down in the trenches, and, confronting a little group of a dozen soldiers in one of the quieter parts of the line, he called for a volunteer for a task of desperate character. "He will not come back; absolutely not," said the officer. "But I call for a volunteer."
Three French soldiers dragged themselves to their feet and saluted.
"I asked for one man," said the colonel, very gravely.
No one of the three budged.
"Padre," said the officer to a Red Cross man who was present—an American—"I will not decide this. You will decide this. It is a command."
The Red Cross man looked the three soldiers in the face, but he could not speak; he could not think. Suddenly there flashed through his mind one of his boyhood games. Out into plain sight, after thirty years, jumped the old brick schoolhouse of his childhood, the graceful New England elms that flanked the playground, a noisy group of pupils and the silly old rigmarele, "Eeny, meeny, miny, moe," ending with the "One, two, three, out goes he!" Like a machine he now repeated these words with the terrible ending, "out goes he."
The young Frenchman, who was "ha" wanted, turned and climbed up into the rain and the dark; but before disappearing he put his hand on the Red Cross man's shoulder and observed with a smile, "That was a very interesting game, that 'Eeny, meeny,'—and I won, didn't I?"

WHAT I LOVE TO DO
"Each guest is asked to think of the stunt he likes best to do. In two or three minutes one of the guests is asked to stand up and pantomime the action of the thing which he 'just loved to do' while the others are to guess the name of his favorite sport. It may be that he likes roller-skating better than anything else; so he roller-skates across the floor.
Another player likes to ride a horse-back, and prances madly around the room. Another plays a whole baseball game by himself, and one of the girls swims violently all over the room. Each player must continue his action until the other players have guessed what he is doing. Instead of the hostess having trouble to make guests pantomime their favorite sport, after they once are started, she has real difficulty in tactfully conveying to them the idea that this is up!

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Eastern Headquarters, 10 Queen West, Toronto.
Employment service—cost \$4 per mo.

J. Cadesky OF TORONTO
On account of Holiday Season will not be here on January 5, but will be here on
Monday, February 2
Anyone visiting from Keesbain, Defective Vision or Eyesache should not miss the opportunity of consulting this eye-sight specialist. Appointments may be made with Mr. A. T. Brown, Druggist.
CONSULTATION FREE
Office Hours: 9 a. m. till 4 p. m.

Season's Greetings and SUPER SAVINGS from CARROLL'S

Armour's WINES 29¢ assorted btl.	Aylmer Choice Quality TOMATOES 2 No. 2 1/2 tins 21¢
Fette Choice PITTED DATES 2 pounds 25¢	Aylmer Choice Quality CORN 3 No. 2 tins 35¢
Peak, Fresh's SHORTCAKE 45¢ pound	Aylmer Choice Quality PEAS 4 No. 2 tins 35¢
McCORMICK'S OAT CAKES pkg. 17¢	Choice Mixture NUTS lb. 21¢
ANIMAL CRACKERS pkg. 5¢	Superb Quality Table FIGS 2 1/2-lb. pkg. 20¢
Selected Clusters Table RAISINS 1-lb. pkg. 33¢	McLaren's Assorted JELLIES 4 pks. 19¢
Carroll's Fine "A" Blend COFFEE pound 45¢	Carroll's Parchment-Wrapped BACON lb. 34¢
Very Dry GINGER ALE 6 30¢ btl.	Carroll's Mild-Cured COTTAGE ROLLS lb. 27¢
	Carroll's Old English Style MINCEMEAT 2 pounds 29¢
	CRISCO Special 1-lb. tin 66¢ 1/2-lb. tin 23¢

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