



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, 211 Mill Street, Acton, Ontario. The subscription price is \$2.00 per year, in advance. Postage is charged additional to office 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

TELEPHONES—Editorial and Business Office 174 Residence 131

EDITORIAL

Accidents and Compensation During 1930

The summary of figures for the Workmen's Compensation Board of Ontario for the year 1930 shows a total of 60,267 accidents reported during the year, a decrease of 17,836 from the prior year. The fatal accidents numbered 520, as compared with 510 during 1929, and the accidents reported during December numbered 4,694, compared with 6,288 in December, 1929. The total benefits awarded in the past year amounted to \$7,423,018.82, as compared with \$8,012,157.78 during 1929, the 1930 figures being made up of \$6,086,972.77 compensation, and \$1,336,046.05 medical aid. Taking a basis of 300 working days, this would show average daily benefits awarded of \$24,743, requiring an average of 895 cheques per day. There was a decrease in the average number of new claims reported daily from 290 in 1929 to 231 in 1930.

Chain Stores in Canada

The growth of chain stores in Canada is an economic problem of keen interest. There are 350 different systems of chain stores in the Dominion, according to a survey recently made by the Canadian Government Bureau of Statistics, but only 210 have made returns to the Government. Of the 210 there were 42 grocery chains operating 1,699 stores; 18 general, department and variety chains, with 354 stores; 20 drug chains with 260 stores; nine meat chains with 180 stores; four tobacco chains with 173 stores; 17 boot and shoe chains with 157 stores; 11 restaurant chains with 131 stores; 12 bakery chains with 121 stores; other chain systems varied from 12 to 108 stores. Total sales in 1929 for the 210 chain systems amounted to \$250,120,074. This was equivalent to \$686,889 per store, which works out at over \$26 per capita of the population of the Dominion. Sales by provinces were largest in Ontario where they reach \$137,682,606, or more than 50 per cent. of the total for all 210 chain systems. The great bulk of the nation's retail merchandizing is still done by independent stores.

Emphasized This Year

The announcement recently in the Milton Champion that Reeve Harris, of Burlington, is elected, would aspire for the Halton Wardenship, and the fact of his election by acclamation, and the added fact also that Reeve Mason, of Acton, has many claims to that honor will bring about a decision to a great extent of the contention between the man and the municipality for the honor. And we do not mean by that statement to make any unwarranted personal comparisons between the aspirants for the office. In the turn of municipalities it is, we are told, Burlington's opportunity. On the other hand, Mr. Harris, we believe, has been a member of the County Council for only one year, while Mr. Mason has served at the County seat for six years. For the past two years Reeve Mason has been honored with the chairmanship of the Finance Committee, which is considered next in importance to the Wardenship. Reeve Harris is a young man, and, judging by his popularity in securing acclamations in Burlington, will have further opportunities for having the honor of being Warden of Halton. Reeve Mason is the member of the County body with the longest term of years who has not been honored with the position. These and other items that have apparently been injected will come in for consideration when the County Council chooses its Warden for 1931. With these facts in view the choice this year on the man or municipality is emphasized very much.

Municipal Statistics

The municipal statistics for 1929 have been just recently issued by the Ontario Government department, and they as usual carry some interesting figures. The total population of Halton County is given as 24,342; Acton has 1,003; Burlington, 3,198; Georgetown, 1,002; Milton, 1,775; Oakville, 3,548; Esquesing, 3,169; Nassagaweya, 1,767; Nelson, 3,258; and Trafalgar, 3,732. The assessed acreage of the municipalities is given as: Acton, 394 acres; Burlington, 583; Georgetown, 1,031; Milton, 400; Oakville, 960; Esquesing, 66,864; Nassagaweya, 44,797; Nelson, 2,738,195; Trafalgar, \$66,785. The population of Halton shows a decrease of nearly five hundred, as in the previous statistics it is given as 24,823. The little volume is complete with the usual informational figures concerning the Province, and is kept as reference by all who receive a copy.

Optimism; But Not Without Effort

The depression which has been so widespread for months past has naturally engendered a varied spirit of pessimism, which must be overcome before normal conditions return. An intelligent spirit of optimism is worthy of cultivation. It is a pity, however, to assume that type of optimism in which there is a blind confidence that everything will turn out all right, even when shirking, neglect, carelessness and indifference characterize our conduct. It is a pity, nevertheless, not to be an optimist at this stage of our country's—and all other countries, as a matter of fact—present material conditions. Our optimism to be reasonable and helpful must be based upon the sense of believing that integrity, ability and hard work are a combination that cannot long be beaten. A sane intelligent optimism is an essential part of every loyal, wide-awake Canadian's equipment, and an honest determination to put it into commission.

Why Not?

There are prizes offered for the best flowers in the summer time, the best live stock and produce of the farm is proudly displayed at the fall fairs. Most citizens take quite a pride in a neat lawn and surroundings in the summer. Athletic achievement is lauded and awarded with cups, medals, and many prizes. And the best hockey team or baseball team usually gets a pretty fair send-off at the close of a successful season. Every time there is a big snow storm we feel there is one activity that doesn't receive recognition enough. The unshovelled sidewalk after a snow storm is a nuisance to pedestrians and a menace to safety, and yet to date no one has ever offered a prize to the citizen who throughout the winter has the neatest and cleanest shovelled sidewalk. Some citizens take just as much pride in doing this duty as in flowers and well-kept lawns and then the fellow next door will often allow the winter's accumulation to lay there until reminded of his obligation and the necessary fulfillment or option of a fine. May we make the suggestion that a contest for the best shovelled sidewalk be inaugurated, with rules for promptness, neatness, etc., the municipal officers as the judges, and the prizes to be secured by the fines collected from the fellow who doesn't do his duty. It would add some interest; there might be some big prize money to award, and without a doubt it would greatly improve the appearance and safety of all the sidewalks.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In municipal political life this year of 1931 will be noted as a year of acclamations. They seem to be quite general throughout the Province.

Monday was a bad day to get out the country vote. The storm was the worst of the present winter season, and undoubtedly kept many from registering their vote.

With all the city and rural elections now over for the year, the successful candidates may now settle down and face the tasks which the ratepayers have entrusted to their care.

The opinion of Hon. Justice Hodgins that auto insurance rates are too high will co-incide with the opinion of the majority of car owners. The big question that arises is what will the reduction be.

The death of Marshall Joffre terminated the career of a man who was held in admiration in many lands outside his native country. All will mourn with France the loss that has been felt at his death.

Acton seems to be taking its hockey just as seriously this year as last. But of course the continuance will be gauged just the same as in other municipalities, by the ability to produce a winning team.

The presentation of the play by the young people last week, with the funds diverted to charity, showed a very commendable spirit. No matter what the amount raised, the willingness to help in any way was true citizenship.

The Carleton Place Canadian, with its issue of last week entered upon its fifty-sixth year. That this splendid weekly may continue to be an influence in moulding opinion in Canada, and Carleton Place in particular, and that its era of progressiveness may be maintained, is the wish of THE FREE PRESS.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

The New Year seems to be quite strong and vibrant for one of such tender age. The wind is howling and whining and the temperature of the room is making cold shivers run up and down my spine. I can't say we exactly enjoy this exhibition of his young strength so just to help things along I quote at frequent intervals:

"Oh wind a-blowing all day long Oh wind that sings so sweet a song."

I have met people who love the wind, but I am afraid I don't belong to that fraternity except as regards the soft zephyr breeze that belong to the good old summer time, but still of course we must take what comes and perhaps the New Year is so puffed up with pride at getting here at all that his boisterous welcome is only meant to be a half-fellow-well-met kind of greeting from which he may be expected to recover in due course of time.

This last week has been most exciting and eventful. One most important thing has been Pat's birthday, and, as everybody knows a birthday really is a most important thing when one gets to be eight! Of course it is a little unfortunate that it comes so near to Christmas—even one's own family has an annoying habit of trying to kill two birds with one stone. We gave our young son a real football for his birthday present, to his huge delight. We always feel that money is well spent that contributes in any way to a child's natural love of sport and beside that if children are provided with the means to give them an outlet for their youthful energy mother has a much quieter time when they do happen to be playing in the house.

Another pleasant experience was an evening spent at a real old-time party. To get there we had a five mile drive in the buggy, and once we were settled down we could none of us move either left foot or right foot until we got out again. That's what comes of having big feet and no car. When Partner had finished his smoke it was I who had to put his pipe away, as there wasn't enough room for him to find his own pocket. However, we got there at the long last, without any of us having to be thrown out as ballast. Such a large number of guests had been asked that the dinner were put on in relays. Of course there was feast of good things, and the men, at any rate, seem to feel it an opportunity for every man to do his duty.

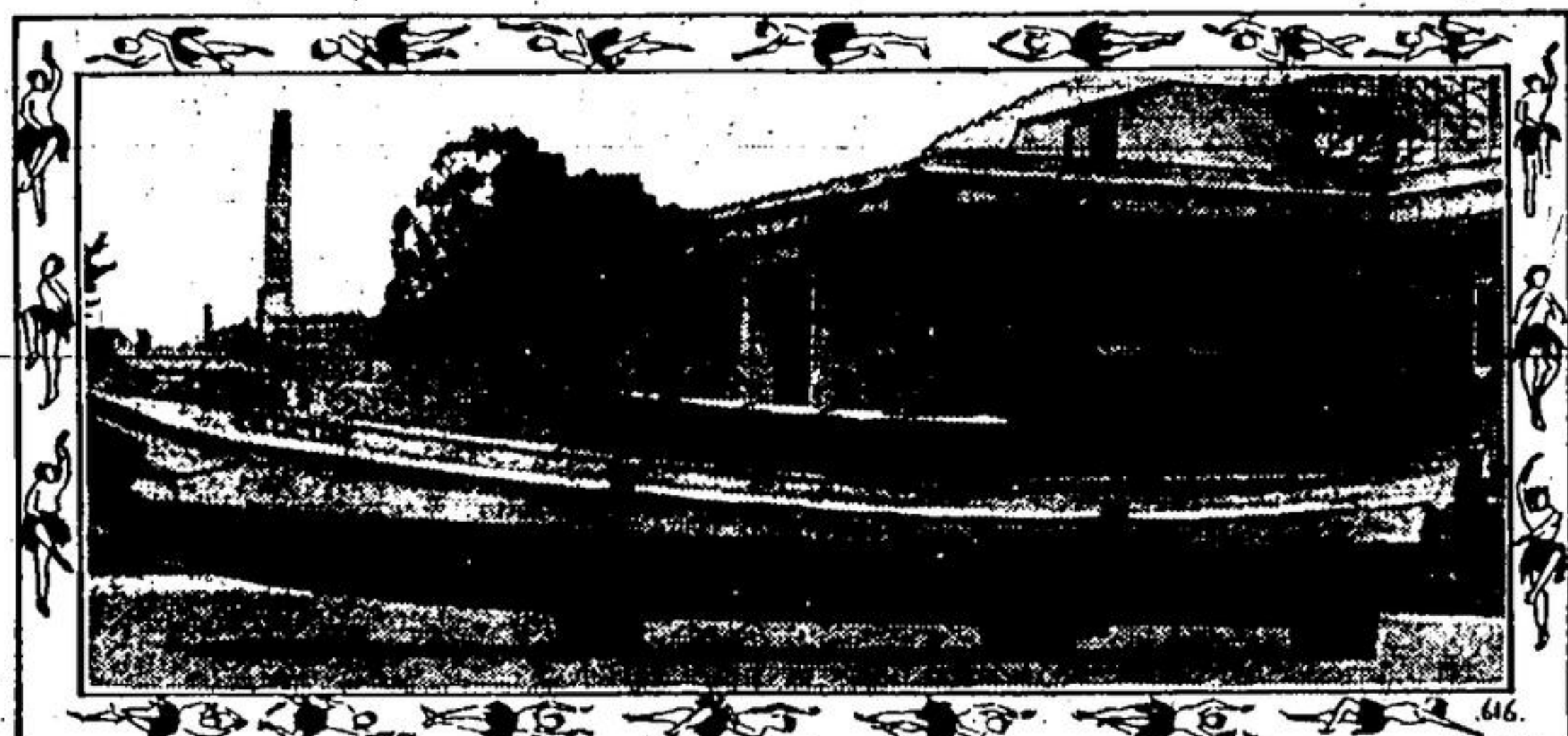
During the evening I found an excellent opportunity to engage our hostess in conversation. She was an old lady of eighty, active, versatile and shrewd. Personally, I always find if one will only take the trouble to set the ball rolling these old people of a past generation are far more interesting conversationalists than the young fry of to-day. This dear old lady was no exception. She took me back to the times which were not far removed from the old pioneer days, and she told me how she and her husband had often driven to Toronto in a lumber wagon, a matter of over thirty miles. A neighbor of hers had once walked to Toronto with a churn of butter weighing about ten pounds—she had taken it that way to keep the butter in good condition. On her return trip she brought with her a logging chain. If any of you are in ignorance as to the weight of a logging chain, ask to see one the next time you are in the hardware store, and see how far you would like to carry it. She went on to tell me how she used to spin and weave and showed me the most wonderful quilts she had picked and made she had made, and she brought with her a logging chain. It was all very interesting to me, especially as I had just recently read a book called "Pioneer Days in Old Ontario." If anyone is at all anxious to know how much we owe to the first settlers around this district, and how little we of our civilization know of really hard times then this is the book which I, for one, can thoroughly recommend.

The foregoing is what I wrote last night, but to finish it was more than I could do. For one thing, I nearly fell asleep over the typewriter, and then Partner came in and instead of rousing me up a bit, he started worrying about it being time to go to bed, so we have both come to the conclusion that a succession of late nights do not exactly agree with us. It must be that we are getting old. I quite look forward to next week when things will be more or less restored to normal; the children returned to school; Christmas decorations put away for another year and nothing left to do but get on with the job. Why it will be quite a holiday to get back to work—that is the ordinary every day life.

I see at the beginning of this spot I was maligning the weather. This morning I take back every word I said. It is just a beautiful new year—in fact he weather this morning is more like a Spring day. If this is a fore-runner of what 1931 has in store for us, we shall all be ready to receive him with open arms.

Keep Douglas' Egyptian Liniment handy. A sure, speedy remedy for burns, sprains, fevers, blood poisoning, soft sores, warts, scalded feet. Invaluable for inflammation and muscular rheumatism.

OLD DUG-OUT RESTS FROM WORLD CRUISE



The old "Tillamook" battered and storm-torn, but still gallant under its new coat of paint, was brought from a marine graveyard on the banks of the Thames, London, recently, and placed on public inspection in front of the famous and N. K. Laxton, Huff newspaper-Crystal Gardens, Victoria, B. C., where it is becoming one of the lights of the 40,000 miles, weathering typhoons in the Pacific and hurricanes in the Atlantic. The canoe was built by Indians near Victoria more than 129 years ago, and a century later carried Captain J. C. Voss Warren, commissioner, and other officials of the Victoria and Vancouver Island Publicity Bureau. Picture shows close-up of the old dug-out.

NEW QUEEN SALUTES FORMER SOVEREIGN



When the new Empress of Japan, latest pride of the Canadian Pacific steamship line, cruised a total of 3,500,000 miles in 58 round voyages from Vancouver and Victoria to Manila Bay. The gallant old Pacific speed records, steamed into Vancouver harbor from the Far East recently she dipped her ensign in homage to the dragon-carved figurehead of the old Empress of Japan, queen of the Pacific

Carroll's Food Products advertisement listing items like Bacon, Marmalade, Peaches, Peas, Jam, Milk, Bread, Paste, Pineapple with prices.

Mill Street - Acton, Ontario

If You Expect to Sell You Must Advertise