



THE HOME OF The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

Value of Canada's Live Stock

Live stock on the farm represents a very substantial sum in the agricultural wealth of Canada. The latest computation made in 1930 places the value of all farm live stock in the Dominion at \$687,225,000, divided among the provinces as follows: Prince Edward Island, \$8,837,000; Nova Scotia, \$10,440,000; New Brunswick, \$16,072,000; Quebec, \$136,470,000; Ontario, \$218,303,000; Manitoba, \$53,741,000; Saskatchewan, \$112,846,000; Alberta, \$94,065,000; British Columbia, \$27,355,000. The statement of values in the various provinces will be reviewed with interest. Ontario farmers possess about one-third of all the live stock in Canada.

A Knotty Question

The daylight saving question is one that is not easily settled by the ordinary methods. Milton, at the election last year, went on record as opposing the adoption of daylight saving time. And yet, in spite of this, all is not harmony in the County Town in relation to this knotty problem. The Milton Reformer last week said: "Although the daylight saving by-law was defeated at the January elections, it is a moot question whether, after all, it will be observed in town or not. Some of the manufacturers, it is said, will carry on under daylight saving time whether the town as a whole does so or not. The greatest objection to it comes from families who have children attending school, as it makes it rather awkward for them getting the children ready for school an hour earlier than usual. However, as the holidays begin the latter part of June and continue until September, the inconvenience caused would not be of long duration at the most. It is said the Town Council, notwithstanding the defeat of the by-law last January, may pass a by-law bringing into operation daylight saving time, especially as other towns in the County have done so."

A Fund of Municipal Information

The auditors' reports for 1930 have been delivered to the Clerk this week and are now ready for distribution. It is just a small booklet of twenty-eight pages but those pages give in concise form a very thorough understanding of the finances of Acton the past year and should be of interest to every ratepayer. In the report will be found the balance sheet; a statement of the net debenture indebtedness; the arrears of taxes; statement of taxes collected; and arrears of waterworks accounts as at the end of the year. Besides statements of the Council business, there will be found an abstract of the accounts of the Waterworks and Hydro Departments; the Public School Board; the Free Library Board; the Arena, etc. The reports may be secured by ratepayers upon request to the Clerk and they provide the means of securing authentic data on the financial activities of Acton. The municipality is in good financial condition. Arrears of taxes covering all years, and including 1930, amount to \$3,505.91. Penalties have also been added to this amount. The net debenture indebtedness is \$200,356.51. This year the final payment on the Mill Street widening by-law was met and in two years the debentures on the Hydro plant will have been wiped out. The bulk of the debenture indebtedness is made up of the waterworks installation and other appliances in connection therewith. It now amounts to \$119,870.80. Interest paid on all debentures during 1930 amounted to \$11,724.35. If you are interested in Acton's municipal affairs you will find this book a fund of information.

People Not Ready Yet

Just before the Legislature closed Dr. Robb made the announcement that for the present the County Health Unit idea is being dropped. The reason given is that "the people of the Province are not quite ready for it" and also the fact that the Federal and Provincial Governments are not now able to contribute towards financing such units. And if these bodies are not in a position to assume a share of the cost Dr. Robb was quite correct in assuming that the counties or municipalities were in no condition to assume their share of the cost arising from these Units. Inasmuch as Halton County had been selected as one of the counties for experimenting with the plan it will be a relief to the ratepayers to know that for the present the idea has been abandoned. When all governing bodies find themselves in a better financial condition such an undertaking may be considered.

The Youngest Branch

A special section of THE FREE PRESS is devoted this week to the Canadian Legion and Acton branch in particular, in their drive for membership. Possibly that seems a rather large proportion for an organization that is just in its infancy in the community but the loyalty with which advertisers have given the edition their support and the help with which the organization has met has shown that the Canadian Legion is known to be a benefit in the community and is therefore welcomed in all quarters. For several years Acton has been without an active organization working in the interests of the veterans and putting the problems of the ex-service men in a clear light before the general public. The need of such an institution has been felt and in their Empire scope the Legion will fulfil many of the duties necessary in an admirable manner. This special section is issued with the idea to give the general public a clearer understanding of the aims and work of the Legion. Acton Branch is the youngest organization in the Province. It starts out with best wishes for its success in all quarters.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Effective on April 26, the railways will alter their train schedules to conform with the daylight saving time being adopted in many centres.

There is no mention in the estimates of provision for the new Post Offices in Halton County that were urged by delegations. The Ontario public buildings funds were reduced by half the 1930 total.

The news from Ottawa on Tuesday was of \$37,000,000 being slashed from the estimates. Now that everyone knows what they aren't going to get, the budget might as well be brought on, telling what everyone is going to get.

The winner of the big Irish sweepstakes is now having difficulty in collecting the purse. Other claims for shares in the prize have thrown the matter into the courts. These big easy fortunes aren't always what they appear in the newspaper headlines.

Georgetown has a newly organized band this year and we understand Milton band is getting together again. Why not another gathering of the bands again this summer in a musical festival at the various towns? We believe it would be popular and would be an incentive for the bands to work for.

The Village Council of Iroquois last week adopted a resolution empowering the constable to regularly examine the liquor permits of those citizens he may suspect of purchasing more liquor than they can afford to pay for without bringing hardship to their families. This method of endeavoring to conserve the family finances is worthy of consideration.

In British Columbia a new tax has been imposed on wage and salary earners. One per cent. is deducted from the pay rolls of all single persons earning over \$15 per week, and married persons earning over \$25 per week. Very soon the average business will have to set apart a special department to attend to the detail of taxes due and to be deducted.

It is interesting to learn that so many United States manufacturers find it to be advantageous to establish branch factories in this country. More United States branch factories are established in Canada than in any other country outside of the United States itself. At the beginning of last year over 500 such factories were in the Dominion, representing investments of \$540,500,000. These factories employ a large number of Canadian residents.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson will receive \$2,000 per year more salary than his predecessor. The estimates tabled on Monday include a vote of \$132,260 for the "salaries and expenses of the office of the High Commissioner for Canada." This is \$15,000 more than was voted for the previous fiscal year. Well, it's nice to know that somebody is getting more salary than previously and that Canada's High Commissioner will be able to devote his attention to the problems without relation to the thoughts of economy that beset most individuals at present.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

It is possible to make light of one's own troubles; people have been known to jest with breaking hearts but when our sorrow is one in common with the whole community it would seem lacking in respect to write of trivial things.

Last week witnessed the passing of one who had gained for himself an affection and esteem that was almost universal—our Doctor. So greatly had he endeared himself in the hearts of his patients that his death will come as a personal loss to all those whom he attended. Kind, unflinching, courteous—one of the few who represented that quickly passing type—"the family doctor."

His patients apparently were to him far more than just "cases," and to his patients he was infinitely more than an ordinary doctor. But now he has gone and we, his clientele, who needed him and loved him so, are confronted with the eternal "Why?" When a man, barely in his prime and carrying on such good work is taken away, we, with our limited knowledge, find it a problem hard to understand.

"We have but faith; we cannot know. For knowledge is of things we see." —Tennyson.

The sorrow of our late Doctor's immediate family is something one hesitates to touch upon. Sorrow is sacred and however deep one's sympathy there are times and places where one remembers it may be that even "angels fear to tread."

The loss of our friend, the Doctor, has set me thinking of doctors in general. Possibly few of us realize what a wonderful work is being done by those who minister to the sick. When trouble comes to a family the doctor is generally the first to be called and often the last to be paid. He is expected by some people to be little short of a magician; if anything goes wrong with the patient, the doctor invariably gets the blame. I remember several years ago speaking to a man whose child had died with pneumonia and who thought of the doctor as little short of a murderer because the child did not recover. As it happened I had occasion to go to the house while the little girl was sick and the atmosphere of the place was vile. Only by an act of Providence could any person breathing such polluted air be expected to recover.

That is only one instance but it would not be hard to find others. There are cases of blood poisoning by the score—wounds that have been made antiseptic by the doctor, treated earnestly by the patient or someone in the family, until infection sets in and then the doctor is called in once again and expected to perform the impossible. If tetanus sets in and the patient does by some miracle recover, he seldom realizes how much he owes to the doctor's skill and if he dies the chances are his friends openly criticize the doctor and think perhaps he might have saved the patient.

The doctor, more than anyone else, is called upon to deal with ignorance and crass stupidity. The wonder is not that so many people die but that so many recover and yet a rudimentary knowledge of nursing and first aid is no more difficult to learn than cooking and stock-raising.

Would it not be just as well if we at times tried to remember that our doctor is a man as well as a physician and may himself be suffering in some way unknown to us? At such a time it may chance that he is called in to some patient whose troubles are mostly imaginary, yet with all this we rarely find the doctor who chose anything but gentle and attentive. Surely before a worthy man takes the M.D. he needs almost to qualify as a saint.

The doctor is called upon at all seasons, in all weathers and at all hours. He is at the beck and call of his patients by day and by night, seldom is he allowed the luxury of fatigue—in fact he can hardly ever get his own.

The medical profession is looked upon as one of the noblest in life and indeed it must be, for some of the most wonderful characters of every age because only a man who loves his work and is whole-heartedly devoted to its cause could possibly put up with all the things the doctor is called upon to contend with.

Those to whom great sorrow has come from time to time know how great a friend the doctor can be, his patience and understanding is infinite. Should we not remember this and for our part show consideration in whatever way we find it possible? We are apt to be selfish and inconsistent when sickness comes to our home but if we control this tendency and help and trust our "family doctor," we shall find him the best friend we can possibly have.

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Joint-Ease

ALBERTA TAKES LEAD

Alberta has the distinction of being the only province in Canada producing registered alfalfa seed, reports the Seed Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The first successful attempt to grow this seed was made several years ago by the C. P. R. Land Irrigation Company, using the popular Grimm strain on irrigated lands in the Brooks district. Most of the alfalfa produced in this district is now registered, being grown under the rules prescribed by the Canadian Seed Growers Association, including inspection of the growing crop and the cleaned seed by officials of the Dominion Seed Branch. The seed has developed an enviable reputation in other provinces and has found markets abroad, quantities having been exported to both Europe and the United States. About 330,000 lbs. of cleaned seed was produced last year, and of this 80 per cent. will be sold as Registered, with the balance No. 1 and No. 2 grades.

LEGS AND THE BOY

As the cup was handed over into the youth's hands, there went up cries of "Speech! Speech!" and the Kubbub broke out anew. Meanwhile the lad was able to collect his thoughts and, of course, to catch his breath. Then he stepped up on a bench. There came an abrupt and eager hush. "Gentlemen," he said, "I have won this cup by the use of my legs. I trust I may never lose the use of my legs by the use of this cup."

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