



The Acton Free Press

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G. A. DILLS, Editor and Proprietor.

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Editorial and Business Office, 374
Residence 138

EDITORIAL

Not Productive of Better Business

Business methods, which possibly are the result of a difficulty to secure orders, are sometimes practised which in the interests of good business are quite questionable. We had one of these efforts tried out on us the other day and on recounting the experience to a couple of our merchant friends find that such methods are occasionally tried out on them and usually with the same degree of success as was secured in our case. Possibly we had better explain this new type of salesmanship as we had it tried on us. The representative of a well-known supply house called the other morning, and as we were busy at the moment he casually walked to the workshop and checked up what he considered should be put on one of the machines we operate in the way of new parts. He enquired for the order book from the foreman, but was told that orders were placed by the "boss." When we were free in the office he came in and proceeded to tell us what was required and with pencil in hand was prepared to write his order down until, with the best control we could muster we informed this salesman that we still had the ability to place our orders as we saw fit. From that matters got worse until the order-taker departed through the door, closing both ours and the one on his car without any regard for the glass therein. Fortunately all parties were shatterproof and our only regret was that we had not asked him if he were "Mr. Beechnut," although we knew his right name quite well. The plan of securing an order was a new one to us but grocers and other merchants tell us that such individuals call on them, using the same methods. Business may be hard to secure and may require the adoption of new methods but we question if this one will be productive of better business.

In Cycles

The Mail and Empire the other morning editorially discussed the movement of city people back to the land. It said: "For the first time in three or four years, not a few city people are trying to get back on the land. In the main, they were brought up on the farm and were drawn into the larger centres of population by the movies and city lights. They have been working as clerks or at manual labor, in factories or in outdoor occupations. They had quite a good time so long as the business boom lasted, but the depression robbed them of their jobs, their savings are, in the main, gone, and now they turn towards their former means of livelihood. Most of them have no money wherewith to secure the land and they are well to take up farms on almost any basis. This development has occurred in Western Canada as well as in Eastern Canada. It may seem curious that it has occurred at a time when the agricultural industry is in a worse position than at any previous time in many years. Why should city people who know all about the land wish to go back to the soil under such conditions? The reply is obvious. They know that a family on a farm is at least generally sure of enough food to keep it alive while the unemployed in the cities are dependent upon charity for every meal they eat." And here a few years ago the great cry was to offer inducements and encouragement for the youth to remain or return to the land, and all to no avail, and now the cycle has turned and with no inducements on the land the trend of the city folk is back to the land. Truly we are a peculiar people, who seem to run in cycles and have worries and problems over which we fret which actually bring about their own solution.

Canada to Take Decennial Census

All arrangements have been completed by the Canadian Government Bureau of Statistics for taking the seventh decennial census of Canada. The actual work of counting will begin on June 1 next. For the purpose of enumeration the country has been divided into 250 districts, each of which will be under the superintendence of a census commissioner. Upwards of fourteen thousand enumerators have been appointed and each of them soon will be assigned to "cover" a given area within a defined district. They will be individually responsible to the commissioner of their respective districts. It will take the enumerators about three weeks to obtain details intended to show the numbers, age, sex, civil status and racial origin, the language, religion, education, housing and occupation of the people domiciled in towns and cities, and probably four weeks' time will be required to complete a similar stock-taking of the people in the rural districts. Rural enumeration will necessitate visits to over 800,000 individual farms. Mr. T. A. Hutchinson, barrister, Milton, is Chief Enumerator for Halton County.

The Two Actons

A further cementing of the link between Acton, England, and the Acton in Canada was made this week when Sir Harry Brittain paid a visit to Canadian Actonians and was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Moore at Moorecroft. The little informal gathering in which a few citizens were permitted to meet the distinguished visitor and the visits about town and to the manufacturing establishments where Sir Harry Brittain met many of our citizens and became acquainted with us as we are at home was a rare pleasure. The visit was more than just a personal event. The Canadian Actonians have an added tie with the Motherland and through this visit of the representative of Acton, England, somewhat of the vastness of the waters that separate is lessened and we feel just a little closer. If the opportunity for a visit to the Old Land presents itself Canadian Actonians will anticipate with keen pleasure a visit to Acton, England, that will have pleasure aside from tourist attractions. The visit of Sir Harry Brittain, conveying through his charming personality the greetings from the Old Land, is an incident which will long be remembered and recall many pleasant recollections.

When Champions Are Needed

In "Tommy" Church the cause of public ownership and its disentanglement from political ownership seems to have a fighting champion. As long as Sir Adam Beck remained at the helm the Hydro was kept free from politics, but it would appear, that the years intervening since his death have seen his great public owned institution gradually getting into circles far removed from the original intent. Now Thos. L. Church seems to be the outstanding champion of the cause to keep for the people this great institution. Federal and provincial governments are apparently alike involved in the matter. The Hydro matters were the subject of much criticism at the recent Liberal political meeting in Milton, and the Provincial Leader of that party made some striking statements and quoted figures that insinuated that public ownership was costly. The average citizen pays little attention to these warnings until the increased cost is shown in a larger monthly bill. Decreased surpluses and in some municipalities deficits are shown in the recent thirteenth power bills and this, it would seem, in spite of increased power consumption. Such was the experience of Collingwood. At the peak of its popularity and when the other nations are studiously watching this great public owned institution, Hydro in Ontario quite apparently needs a rally of champions of such men as Mr. Church if the structure is going to be maintained.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Conversion Loan went well over its allotment and reached over \$600,000,000 or more than double the original objective.

The Budget is due to be presented this week. But not many will object if a little more delay is occasioned before the news it will contain is liberated.

And now the summer sports are in full swing and the baseball bats, tennis rackets, and lawn bowling and horseshoe pitching seem to be the favorites in Acton.

In an effort at economy Brampton Councillors and the Mayor have cut off their own salaries for the balance of the year. It will mean \$45 per night for the remaining fifteen meetings.

The highways took their toll over the week-end again and happy homes are turned into homes of mourning. The Ontario department's campaign for safety deserves the study of every motorist for his own sake and the sake of other travellers.

The citizens of Acton had an opportunity of noting the progress being made in music as taught in the schools when the Empire Day concert was given. Each year as the work progresses more difficult selections are attempted and a greater degree of perfection is reached in their execution. The discipline of the pupils was a feature that secured many complimentary remarks.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

Another sudden change in the weather. Tonight it is quite comfortable sitting by the open fire. Patch thought so too, until a spark landed in his fur coat, then he retired to the stove products of his own box behind the stove. Yes, the snapping and crackling of the fire sounds very cosy—at least I thought so when I came in after doing the "rounds." What rounds?—Oh, the chicken—rounds. I have chicken camps all over the place these days, as I like to keep the different batches, or hatches, which are kept separate in order to give them their proper feed. Some are big enough now to eat anything in sight; others are at the scratch stage, smaller ones yet are only allowed molasses maw, and the wee babies nothing at all. Then there are two lots of broody hens, and about forty-seven "broodies" that are not supposed to brood. If anyone wants a new destination of paradise, I would suggest the expression, "more persistent than a broody hen," which is saying a lot, especially if you happen to be dealing with a broody hen that you don't want to brood.

We look upon hens as a necessary evil, but the chickens are the dearest we, cattley things and they don't look as if they could possibly grow to raid a vegetable garden or scratch up my flower beds. Possibly I spend far more time with them than their value warrants, but I think their very helplessness makes an appeal to our better nature—life and well-being depend upon the care we give them. True, a self-set hen will mother a brood of chickens without assistance, but her but in that case the mortality in her family will generally run about fifty per cent.

Then there are the birds. In the woodshed and places near the house are several nests which belong to the starlings. We read that starlings are destructive birds and it would seem quite legitimate to destroy their progeny which are within easy reach. But we don't—we can't—it wouldn't seem "right." Later on, when they have flight as a means of protection, we shall not grieve if the cat gets them—that is nature's law—but as long as they are helpless we do our best to protect them.

Last night Partner and I went to a political meeting. How I would love to write a report of it—not in the ordinary way—no editor would ever publish the report I should like to make, and if it did it would probably be misunderstood. Suffice it is to say it was a splendid meeting and some of the speakers were certainly very fluent and convincing, possibly the most fluent were two ladies (?) who sat near us and kept up an animated conversation the whole evening. One of the speakers brought to my mind a story from a particularly odorous vegetable, which was almost as loud as their conversation at times.

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"Are you English?"

"Yes."

"And have you always lived in England?" came the somewhat incredulous question.



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what was coming next.

"Why, yes," I answered, wondering "But you don't speak like Mrs. Blank—I thought that was how all English people spoke."

Shortly afterwards I met Mrs. Blank, a lady of means, prominent on subscription lists but yet not particularly popular. I met her—I heard her speak and had she dropped a nickel with every stich she discarded she would soon have been treading a silver carpet. And yet in this private district she was regarded as typically English! Not that I consider my own English beyond reproach—far from it—but if I see an aspirate getting away from me I do run after it, bring it back, as it were, chain it down, put it in shackles—anything to keep it at home, because I consider it creates a bad influence to have, unless dropped indiscriminately, all over the place. Think of the difference it can make to a public man. Take a politician in the House. His gift of oratory may be outstanding, his arguments sound, his integrity and loyalty to his party beyond reproach but if he speaks as an illiterate man can he convince his listeners with the soundness of his judgment? Will they respect him as they would a man with a better command of his mother tongue. At this meeting the other night there were speakers to whom it was a pleasure to listen and others who created a sense of irritation with every word they uttered, yet their arguments were fundamentally the same although presented so differently.

How will our much-vaunted system of education show up in the years to come? We hear of debates being carried on in various schools and the boys' Parliament, and it is an excellent thing for young people to be trained in this way that they may have the courage of their own convictions but will they be able in future years to face the public with an almost perfect command of the English language? Considering the cost of education these days it is only reasonable to expect great things from the rising generation.

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