



The Acton Free Press

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G. A. DILLS, Editor and Proprietor.

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EDITORIAL

Industrial Accidents

There were 4,320 accidents reported to the Workmen's Compensation Board during the month of May, as compared with 4,061 during April, and 6,177 during May of 1930. The fatal cases reported numbered 35, as against 25 in April. The benefits awarded amounted to \$463,206.37, of which \$372,146.51 was for compensation and \$91,059.86 for medical aid, as compared with \$510,607.55 total benefits awarded during April.

Help in Saving Needed

Whatever other lines may have been affected by the world depression, it is quite apparent that the Department of Education stands alone in being immune to contagion from the outbreak that has touched most everything else. In such measure as the local Boards are most closely allied to the public of their communities, or to the Department, does the action seem to be shown in the decisions given. In Burlington the High School teachers received their regular increase in spite of the fact that the County Council urged the body to have salaries remain at the same rate. In Oakville the Public School teachers received an increase of \$50 per year, and the Board requested the Council to provide for a \$45,000 addition to the school. This latter request was, however, refused. Acton has had a very different experience where teachers and Board met and discussed matters frankly and each was big enough to see the other's position. Recommendations from the department and inspectors vary little, however, in consideration of the financial position of the average citizen. The same requirements of equipment and standard are called for and apparently expected to be supplied. It places the local Boards in a peculiar predicament. It would appear that the Provincial Department might use a little more consideration in making the requests and endeavor to take into consideration the position in which the Boards are placed in their efforts to serve many masters.

Wine and Beer in Grocery Stores

The Moderation League has had emissaries in town during the week endeavoring to induce citizens to sign petitions to the Provincial Legislature to legalize the sale of beer and wine in grocery stores. These canvassers have been given the gold shoulder by those who have seen through the sophistry of their "temperance" arguments. But others who have added their signatures freely without thought. In factories even the girls and boys have been coerced into placing their names on the petition without realization of what it meant. It is reported that these solicitors are getting five cents per name for the names they secure to the petitions in the towns and ten cents per name in the rural districts. They are very "disinterested temperance workers." The people of this Province know only too well that beer and wine are now obtained all too freely under the existing liquor act. It is very manifest that this renewal of an old-time and specious activity is actuated, not because of even a remote desire to further the cause of temperance, or to curtail the consumption of liquor, but for the few cents per name available to the canvassers, and to increased profits to brewers and wine manufacturers. A further demoralization of the home would surely follow the carrying-out of the prayer of the petition. The most of the people of the community will readily see through the sophistry of the "wet" profiteers. Put beer and wine in the grocery stores and the groceries will soon be a side line.

Making an Issue of Trifles

One of the weaknesses of human nature is to make an issue of trifles. Many who would sacrifice everything for another in an emergency, refuse to compromise in a matter of no importance whatever, and love is endangered in consequence. A look into quarrels which have disrupted friendships, and left hearts hurt and sore, will find that few of them are due to anything of consequence. Young people and older people, too, alienate their friends and defraud themselves by refusing to yield on some point so insignificant that the whole affair would seem ridiculous, if the results were not so tragic. Do not make issues of trifles. Where principles are involved, stand like a rock. In the matter of tastes, preferences, and opinions, be ready to yield and yield gracefully.

Customs and Excise Taxes Decline

Canada's revenue from customs and excise duties and excise taxes for the month of May were \$19,678,833, as compared with \$25,540,625 for the corresponding month last year. The revenues for last month, with the receipts for May, 1930, in brackets, follow: Customs duties, \$12,183,873 (\$10,313,415); excise taxes, \$2,980,611 (\$5,061,383); excise duties, \$4,410,014 (\$6,033,404); sundry collections, \$94,434 (\$232,422). For the months of April and May combined, total receipts from customs and excise were \$34,304,775, and last year \$42,600,103. Income tax collections this May were \$36,678,081, and in May, 1931, they were \$50,113,716. The corrected figures of the total revenue from customs and excise duties and taxes for the fiscal year 1930-31 was \$228,200,073.50, and in the fiscal year 1929-30 it was \$310,576,501.41. This showed a falling off in the past year of \$82,376,427.91. The decreases were: Customs duties, \$48,670,017.55; excise taxes, \$26,123,736.34; excise duties, \$7,200,082.67, and sundry collections, \$282,680.85.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Budget, passed by a majority of thirty. The news was hardly unexpected.

Guelph will not receive any great benefit from the acquisition of its latest industry—the making of auto markers by the prisoners at the reformatory.

Will beer and wine go on the weekly bill if it is supplied by the grocery stores? The liquor interests don't care for the grocer's collections as long as they get theirs.

The toll of accidents on the highways and about the bathing beaches amounted to eleven deaths last week-end in Ontario. Can you afford to take chances on a week-end or at any other time?

It would have seemed quite fitting if the work of making auto marker plates had been allotted to the inmates of the "preferred penitentiaries." It might have been a reminder of former days.

A question asked many times is "When will Provincial or Dominion Governments get courage enough to settle the daylight saving question on an orderly plan?" The individual municipal plan now in vogue is a fine muddle.

On the first of June the Government was four years in the liquor business. By way of anniversary celebration the liquor interests' next move is apparently to put the Government out and the grocery store into this business.

"In the interests of promoting temperance" is the way the petition for beer and wine in grocery stores was put up to some citizens for signatures. A nickel a name will stretch some people's conscience farther than the elastic on a Yo-Yo ball.

Why is it that Halton County has to be picked for all the experiments? The Health Department singled it out for a health unity experiment, and now the liquor interests are on hand for signatures to a petition for beer and wine in the grocery stores.

Nearly 20,000 have signed a petition of clemency for Steinberg, who is condemned to hang and we doubt if 1,000 of the petitioners are in a position to intelligently discuss the case or know much of the evidence which was responsible for his conviction.

The several weeks old news, via Milton, in the daily papers, referring to the adjustment of salaries in Acton, leads one to believe that the re-arrangement of a popular slogan in the dailies should be made to run, "Read it in The Free Press while it's news."

It is said there can be found a biblical quotation adaptable to every event, and we suppose the one applicable to the Bennett Budget would be "For unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

Last Monday Partner and I went to the city. It was meant to be a purely business trip but we got a lot of pleasure mixed up with it. We went by bus and were only away a few hours but we saw some lovely little bits of scenery and some very beautiful gardens but the loveliest thing we saw was a living picture of Darby and Joan.

Somewhere along the road at the entrance to a farm, a couple stood waiting for the bus. They both looked around twenty, the man appeared well and strong but the old lady was almost bent double like a person subject to chronic rheumatism, yet it was she who boarded the bus, Darby was just there to see her off. And how tenderly and carefully he did it. In his hand he carried a box which he placed by the bus to lessen the height of the step for wife Joan, to mount, fetch a dear old lady. . . . She got off right in the heart of the city and said as she stepped off "I'll just wait here until my young man comes."

I hated to see her left alone and wondered whether she would be all right and if someone would soon come along to take care of her. But I need not have wondered. On our return trip there was our old lady at the street corner waiting to go back to her Darby. Away we sped along the road, presently we came to her home and there was Darby, box in hand and a smile of welcome on his rugged old face, waiting gladly and patiently to do this little service for his Joan. Slowly and painfully, with her husband's help the old lady got off the bus and step by step they crossed the road together. One could imagine them in just that way, travelling step by step along Life's Road, sharing one another's burdens—the weaker helping the stronger. It brought to my mind this very beautiful piece of poetry:

"More lovely grows the earth as we grow old
More tenderness is in the dawning's spring
More bronze upon the blackbird's burnished wing
And richer is the autumn cloth of gold;
I deeper meaning to the years unfold
Until to waiting hearts each living thing
For very love its bounty seems to bring
Extending its wings to beauty to behold."
"Or is it that with years we grow more wise
And reverent to the mystic profound
Withdrawn from careless or indifferent eyes—
That broods in simple things the world around
More conscious of the love that glorifies
The common ways and makes them holy ground."

Helena Coleman
Sometimes it takes us a long time to be "more conscious of the love that glorifies the common ways and makes them holy ground."

Of course we saw other things not so beautiful as this little picture of Darby and Joan. I wanted a typewriter ribbon but the saleslady in the store with her reddened lips, pencilled eyebrows, and enormous ear-rings got me so excited I hardly knew what I was at. I answered her questions at random. "Yes, yes plain blue—oh—er—no. 5 Standard." Now why do you do it I wondered. You have nice regular features, pretty hair—ought to be quite attractive to any nice boy.

"Two spoons—oh no, I'm sorry, just one please. But now whatever kind of boy would you possibly attract. The make-up would be all right on the stage but at close quarters it's—why—it's just appalling. Finally I began to feel sorry for the girl. It must be I thought, that she lives in rooms and probably all she has for a looking glass is one of those green-tinted, mirrors specially designed to make one appear a female Callahan. Of course this is in another store. I found her species in every store. Fortunately we had not very much shopping to do and do you know the more we see of the cities the better we like our home-town. At home you soon get to know where you get the best service, the best quality and the cheapest price. In the city you make a purchase from one store, walk down the streets and possibly see the same thing in another store fifty cents cheaper. As for the fifteen cent stores, they are a snare and a delusion. Granted, things are very cheap—naturally—but just take them up and look them over. Made in Germany, made in Austria, made in Japan, and you can't get away from it in any of the cheaper stores. And then as to saving money I question how much we economize. You know how it is, neighbors—you walk through the stores and you see this thing and that and you are quite convinced you cannot live another hour without them. Then something else catches your eye and before you know where you are at a five-dollar bill has gone west—that is presuming you have one to start with! There may not be as great a variety in your home town and because of the small demand there are possibly some things impossible to get, generally speaking you know what you want before you set out, you are reasonably sure whether you can get it or not and since you know you may be down town to-morrow or the next day you don't go out and buy stuff on the "now or never" principle. It is hard these days to be patriotic when it comes to shopping, we have more or less reached the stage when it is each man for himself but still if we reason things out we shall find we are just as far ahead—perhaps a little farther—by giving our home-town a boost. If we have to economize—and who doesn't—that is among ourselves every-day people—we might as well begin at home and make a virtue out of necessity.

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