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G. A. DILLS, Editor and Proprietor.

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EDITORIAL

Trade Balance Up Again

For the month of January Canada's favorable balance of trade amounted in value to \$4,939,408, that figure representing the increase of exports over imports. For the ten months of the current fiscal year, according to a report issued by the Department of National Revenue, the favorable balance of trade was \$24,038,801. In that period Canada imported goods to the value of \$485,479,167, while exports were \$509,527,468. January figures were \$39,063,460 in exports and \$34,124,061 in imports. A contraction in both exports and imports for the ten months period is shown in the return, however. For the corresponding period at the end of January, 1931, Canada exported goods to the value of \$715,728,649, while at the end of last month the figure was \$509,527,968. Similarly with imports, the January, 1931, figures were \$780,237,733 as against \$485,479,167 for the 10-month period ending January 31, 1932.

Politics or Public Interests

Both Dominion and Provincial Parliaments seem quite willing to probe most everything except that mysterious payment to Mr. John Aird. We read that the Senate will conduct a probe into the conduct of the Senators who were implicated in the Beauharnois distribution of funds. Another probe will be directed at the Canadian prices of gasoline and another at the administration of the civil service commission. And yet a further probe that seems rather personal, are the charges made against Premier Bennett, by Hon. George N. Gordon, which have, it is understood, been retracted. In the eyes of the average individual it would appear that an effort was being made to throw a smoke screen with a deluge of probes, to cover that one for which the public make an insistent demand. If all four of these probes just go as far as the Beauharnois event last year, and leave the public with as many doubts existing in their minds, there will have been little accomplished. The wonder grows when politics and political interests will be cast aside for the good of the public interests.

An Unfairness that May be Rectified

At a meeting of the Acton Council, notice was received that Acton's recommendation regarding changes in the Municipal Act had the approval of the Municipal Association, and would be brought before the Legislature for their consideration. Last year Acton Council requested that the Municipal Act be changed to give villages the power to license transient traders, the same as is now enjoyed by towns and cities. As the Act stands it is now very unfair. Many places that were towns have now only village population, and many villages have town population, and yet do not desire to incorporate. The right for transient trading in villages is granted by a County license, over which the municipality has no power. Other centres are towns only by virtue of being the County town, and yet enjoy the same protection as the centres with more population. As a matter of fact, it is hard to understand why the privilege to stop the transient trader should not be given to every municipality, regardless of size. The small town merchant requires just as much protection as the city man—but under existing rules cannot secure it, and yet the city trader can take his own business and branch out to the smaller centres free of tax.

Surely the Lesson is not Forgotten

It is to be hoped that the war between China and Japan, that has been threatening for some time, will develop into no more than it appears at the moment, a bluffing and threatening attitude by both nations. At the moment, it is providing glaring headlines for the newspapers, but each battle ends in delay and a postponement of activities. If the combatants can be kept in this attitude until the better judgment prevails and the wholesale loss of life is prevented, it will be a blessing. The many intricate international motives of nations involved in the solution of the problems are too complex for the average man to attempt to solve. It is sufficient for him to know that war means hardship, privation and loss of life. It would also appear at the moment that hostilities would be confined to Japan and China and other nations would not be drawn into the conflict. Most nations are too busy reconstructing and re-arranging after the last war to seriously consider another conflict of gigantic proportions. True, there are those who would presume that such a conflict would make an end of depression times, but are such individuals or nations prepared to sacrifice those things which no money can purchase for the requirement of wealth? If the lessons of the last war have thus soon been forgotten, then it is by those who did not suffer.

Hockey a la Inconvenience

The programme of hockey the past week, or rather the lack of fulfilment, has been as disappointing to the local management as it has been to the fans. The play-off games, which it was understood were not to be delayed on any account, were set aside by whom none in Acton know. The past week Acton has had ice at the Arena for almost every night, and yet no games could be arranged. It is quite easy to appreciate the difficulties encountered by O. H. A. officials in this matter, too. Just why either Elora or Hespeler should be particular about having good ice is hard for Acton players and fans to understand, after the surfaces Acton hockeyists were given to play on in these places. The Acton management has done everything possible to play as per schedule, and journeyed to Preston on Saturday night to complete arrangements, after the game only to be met with the greeting that the game was postponed until Monday. With the rural telephone service still out of commission, there were many from the district around Acton who came to town on Monday night, only to be disappointed. It is regretted by all that the schedule could not be more closely adhered to, but the fault seemingly cannot be rectified this year, and no one seems to be particularly to blame, and all will have to put up with inconveniences to get their hockey of 1931-32.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The floods that are usually part of the spring clean-up have this year been part of the winter thrill. Surely they will not be so serious when the time for spring arrives.

Now that it has been definitely settled that the Dominion and not the province is in control of radio, the listener will know where to put the blame for the poor programmes and the praise for the good ones.

It seems to be hard for the average hockey fan to understand why it is that a hockey game cannot be arranged now that the ice surface is ready, when the blame for the dearth of games was given as lack of ice.

Ex-Premier Drury has been granted \$8,000 of salary that he had waived as economy measure when in the office. Most everyone else seems to be grabbing a share of public funds, so no one can blame him for asking for what was only his due.

A new "rattle bar" warning signal is being placed at the railway crossings on No. 7 highway. To reduce speed the bump on Acton's crossing is very effective, and inexpensive. Then, too, there are those cars on which a little rattle will never be noticed.

The first shipment to China of fertilizer—sulphate of ammonia—from a large smelting plant at Kootenay, British Columbia, went forward recently from Vancouver. Shipments from this plant have also been sent to the Dutch East Indies and Hawaii.

The production value of the mineral industry of British Columbia in 1931 is estimated at \$36,567,300 of which coal accounts for \$8,500,000; lead, \$7,309,466; copper, \$5,554,225; zinc, \$5,230,386; gold, \$3,372,137; structural materials, \$3,600,000, and silver, \$2,331,096.

The Ontario Department of Health has issued a series of pamphlets regarding that dread disease of cancer. They present a number of facts that the average individual should know in the control of this malady, and are worded in terms understandable by the average person.

Canada had a close squeeze for the hockey honors in the Olympic games. These American boys are proving very good scholars, and the Canucks will have to guard their standing very closely to maintain their leadership, or else quit exporting good Canadians to the other fellows' teams.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for
The Free Press by
GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

Is it a vice or a virtue to want to stick at a job until it is done? I often wonder and the reason I am curious is because I loathe being compelled to quit a job before it is really finished. Such an attitude may be a virtue but I have my doubts. If only we could stretch our days to thirty-six hours how it would simplify matters. Not all days of course—just days when one is nicely enthused with some particular piece of work. I was just thinking there would be a longer interval between meals but oh dear, instead of that there would probably be another meal—what would it be and where would it fit in and what in the world should we cook? No, perhaps things are better as they are although leaving a job half done is not thereby any less irritating. Queer, when you think of it, some can't find work enough to fill in their time while others can't find time enough to do all their work.

You understand there is never smoke without fire and the reason for my shall we say—spontaneous combustion—is because I am in the middle of making my own pair of overalls and they are not yet finished. I started them to-day soon after dinner. Cut a pattern from some old ones and soon had a piece of denim looking quite like a respectable garment. Then Partner came home from the mill and needed some help outside. Since then I have made three more attempts to finish the overalls but they still need about an hour's work and that hour is going to be the hardest thing to find I ever knew. By the time ordinary routine work is done there is so little left of the day. To sew at night means for me a bout of neuralgia at the back of my eyes—to type by lamp-light is to irritate the same trouble. Eye-sight being something one cannot afford to gamble with, it often happens that a job I would be only too glad to finish is, of necessity, left over until the next day, or perhaps for several days, and the longer it is left the more my enthusiasm wanes. Of course there are plenty of things I can do at night—I can scribble any old time at all—and I do—the result is an accumulation of scribbling waiting to be typed. Sometimes pieces get lost but more often than not I get tired of seeing the stuff lying around and stuff it in the waste paper basket—unpublished copy is just as good for lighting a fire as a newspaper. After all there is a lot of it which perhaps deserves no better and than to be cremated but one can't cremate a pair of unfinished overalls, especially when making them is meant to be an economy stunt. Just think—a pair of boy's overalls from good quality denim can be made for fifty cents—a pair of ready-to-wear, of a good make, cost a dollar and a quarter.

Isn't it worth a little effort these days to get two pairs of overalls for the price of one? There is also another advantage—in making them at home one can always reinforce the vulnerable spots and keep plenty of pieces for patching. My experiences with small boys is that it doesn't take them long to go through these same vulnerable spots in spite of reinforcements. Besides ordinary everyday I also have an evening pastime now with which Partner has provided me. Every evening his finger has to be dressed. After the dressing the plaster has to be bound up again with adhesive plaster—a sticking plaster that really sticks. We know it sticks because we find it out the next evening. It takes about fifteen minutes to get it off every time. It can't be hurried for fear of hurting the finger. It can't be cut or ripped because with care most of it can be used again. Perhaps you know how it is—you use one piece of plaster and you are not quite sure it is going to stick so to be perfectly safe you put on an extra piece. When the time comes to take it off you find it is all glued together tighter than the proverbial Scotsman and his money.

Up to the present there has been no sign of infection in Partner's finger—thanks to the iodine bottle—and tomorrow the stitches come out. I might also add that Partner is still using the murderous root pulper—fortunately the roots are only likely to last about another week so that in the near future I shall be able to work with an easier mind when Partner is at the barn doing his chores.

By the time Partner has the full use of both hands there is just a chance that I shall be an expert milker. Possibly I should be now if only Nature had endowed me with two right hands instead of a right and a left. No doubt my left hand has its uses—I seem to have a dim recollection that it came in useful to hang a ring on once upon a time—but so far as milking goes it might as well be non-existent. And oh dear, I work so hard at my job and then Partner looks at the pail and says—"Ugh, is that all the milk you got?" To-night I had a reprieve. It being Friday and no home work, Mo'ly was anxious to go down to milk so she went to the barn and I stayed at home. We couldn't both go anyway with only one pair of rubber boots. Hard times has its compensation! Sorry—I forgot. Depression is past—we now live in an era of prosperity. Funny, how hard it sometimes seems to remember.

Douglas' Egyptian Liniment, always quick always reliable, stops bleeding instantly. Cauterizes wounds and prevents blood poisoning. Splendid for muscular rheumatism.

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Tea "fresh from the gardens"

GREEN FEEDS FOR HOGS IS BETTER THAN PASTURE

In raising hogs pasture may undoubtedly be put to good use on the average farm. This method of feeding, however, has disadvantages, particularly with the active bacon hog—from the standpoint of fast finishing it gives opportunity for excessive exercise and is liable to stunt little pigs due to sunburn and the combined effects of sunburn and dew. With plenty of skim-milk or buttermilk available, experimental evidence and that of practical feeders indicates that growing bacon pigs may be fed for market more economically indoors or in well-shaded pens supplied with racks for feeding of green feed, preferably in the form of clover or alfalfa. Racks are essential to the prevention of waste.

Where pasturing is employed the Animal Husbandry Division of the Federal Department of Agriculture points out alfalfa and clover are the best crops in order stated. Pasture a sufficient number of hogs to keep down the growth but avoid too close grazing. Heavy seedlings of oats or barley pastured when about six inches high, have given excellent results if kept sufficiently grazed down. Rape is another useful crop best suited to the pig from four to five months old. For fall feeding, artichokes have a high feeding value in conjunction with rape, clover or grass.

WHEN THE DOVE COOS

Magistrate (to woman involved in matrimonial dispute): "Did you and your husband quarrel on Friday night?"
"Yes."
"And the next day pay day? Certainly not!"

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Green Valley Tender PEAS Sieve 2 No. 2 tins 15c		
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Large Navel Oranges special, per dozen 53c	LEMONS Special, per dozen 25c	5 GRAPEFRUIT small, for 25c
Medium Navel Oranges, per dozen 45c	3 BANANAS 25c	2 SPINACH lbs. for 17c
Small Navel Oranges Special, per dozen 30c	3 GRAPEFRUIT extra large, for 27c	2 LETTUCE large firm heads 19c

Mill Street Phone 158 Acton, Ontario