



THE HOME OF The Acton Free Press

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G. A. DILLS, Editor and Proprietor.

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EDITORIAL

Fewer Accidents in Industry

There were 3,836 accidents reported to the Workmen's Compensation Board during the month of March, as compared with 4,023 during February, and 4,523 during March a year ago. The fatal accidents numbered 18, as against 29 in March last year. The total benefits awarded amounted to \$501,965.02, of which \$429,880.04 was for compensation and \$72,084.98 for medical aid. The accidents reported for the first quarter of 1932 numbered 11,460, as compared with 12,683 for the same period last year. The total benefits awarded during the first quarter of 1932 were \$1,359,526.96, as compared with \$1,646,188.71 during the same period a year ago.

An Unfairness Rectified

By an amendment to the Municipal Act, passed at the recent session of the Legislature, villages are now given the same power to govern hawkers and peddlers as was formerly enjoyed by towns and cities. The changing of two words in the bill gives to villages a protection which fills a long felt want, and enables them to pass legislation to protect against transient traders. Acton Council, at its session on Monday night, started to take action on the new provision and it is hoped that the fees will be sufficient to make the provisions of the Act protective. The bill was introduced in the Legislature by T. P. Lancaster, M. P. P. for Peterboro County, and Village Councils all over the Province will be grateful that this seeming unfairness against the villages has been finally rectified.

Excessive Public Costs

A budget has been brought down at Ottawa and it was hard to find the man who was pleased, following the announcement of its conditions, last week. When business conditions are in the boom state taxation appears rather insignificant, because the money is forthcoming to meet the demand. But with everyone at the bottom of the pocketbook and experiencing the same difficulties as the Government in balancing the budget, and in most cases coming as far as the Government from the balancing feat, the prospect of meeting increased demands is not so easy. Roger W. Babson, in a special article in the Toronto Star the other evening, had, as usual, the matter pretty well summarized. He put it thus: "The trouble with Government finances is that they follow the crazy principle of spending the money first and trying to raise it afterwards. Instead, they should follow the business principle of estimating the income first and then appropriating only as the income will permit. There is a definite limit to the income which the Government may exact without killing the goose that lays the golden egg, namely, business. Current financial reports show that this limit has already been reached, and business, instead of laying golden eggs for public officials to gather, is laying just ordinary 'goose eggs'. Canada has done more than the United States toward reduction of Government expenses; but this curtailment has been relatively small in comparison to the decline in income which business, labor, and investors have experienced. Cost of government in Canada is still too high for present conditions. The cuts of five per cent. in various civil service wages, the moderate reduction in staff forces, the postponement of non-urgent improvements, have all helped to some extent, but the exigencies of the situation demand more retrenchment. Return of prosperity, both in Canada and in the United States, would be hastened if business and the public could be relieved of excessive public costs."

Could Set an Example

Some interesting facts regarding Judges' salaries was brought out in the recent debate in the House of Commons, when the pay cut was under consideration. The salaries range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 and there are 276 judicial appointments in Canada. In detail one judge get \$15,000; 6 others get \$12,000 each; 18 received \$10,000 apiece; 113 are paid at the rate of \$9,000 per year; 2 receive \$8,000; and 3 at \$7,000; and the remaining 133 get \$5,000. The total paid to the 276 judges is \$1,986,000 annually. These salaries will not be affected by the pay cuts. No one will question the worth of Canada's dispensers of justice, but when everyone else seems to be doing with less it would appear splendidly if a voluntary reduction were offered by way of example to those in lower positions.

A Local Educational Evening

The Auditors' Reports of Accounts of Acton Municipal Council, the Hydro and Waterworks Departments, Public School Board, Cemetery Board, Free Library Board and Arena have been printed and made ready for the perusal of the ratepayers. It is quite a complete little volume and contains many interesting statements. It is published in its entirety and shows the true position of the municipality as at the end of last year. And Acton may well feel well satisfied with her financial position. True, it is not as enviable as a year ago, and the tax arrears list occupies a third more space this year. But there is scarcely a business of any description that found collections as easy to make the past year. If all the arrears of taxes were paid the overdraft shown at the bank balance would have turned to a considerable surplus. There is no need to go into details on the report. Full details of Acton and its finances are contained in the book which is free for the asking by any ratepayer, at the Clerk's office. There is no need for guessing; there is no need for hearsay about Acton and its finances. Any ratepayer can assure himself and an evening or two spent digesting the figures presented in this report will make any ratepayer a better citizen, because he will then have an understanding of his municipality, based on the facts as found by chartered accountants. There is little or no change in the general preparation of the statements from those of the past few years, since this firm first brought in its municipal audit.

EDITORIAL NOTES

True wisdom is to know what is best worth knowing, and to do what is best worth doing.

Some features of the good old days seem to be returning. The railroads are running cheap excursions again and the people are flocking to them in crowds. It's a long time since the railways made an earnest bid for business.

The deadly carbon monoxide gas from the exhaust of motor cars continues to take an ever-increasing toll of life. Working over a running car in a closed garage leaves as much chance for escape as beating a train to a railway crossing.

A fellow has to be a contortionist to get by these days. First of all, he's got to keep his back to the wall and his ear to the ground. He's expected to put his shoulder to the wheel; his nose to the grindstone, keep a level head, and both feet on the ground. And, at the same time look for the silver lining with his head in the clouds. So says an exchange.

All members of the newspaper fraternity are pleased to hear that Mr. E. Roy Sayles is recovering nicely following a recent surgical operation. Besides being editor of the Renfrew Mercury, one of Canada's outstanding weekly newspapers, Mr. Sayles is Managing Director of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association and in this capacity has exercised a strong influence for the betterment of weekly newspapers.

In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1931, the number of sea-going ships entered and cleared at Canadian ports and the total tonnage were as follows: Vancouver, British Columbia, 4,709 ships, 12,321,886 tons; Victoria, British Columbia, 4,907 ships, 9,382,051 tons; Halifax, Nova Scotia, 3,226 ships, 8,184,238 tons; Montreal, 1,699 ships, 7,337,224 tons; Quebec, 689 ships, 3,372,251 tons; St. John, New Brunswick, 1,304 ships, 2,365,629 tons; New Westminister, British Columbia, 759 ships, 2,043,771 tons. Sea-going ships entering and leaving the River St. Lawrence, number 2,436 and had a total registered tonnage of 10,440,768 tons.

A Canadian weekly which boasts the largest circulation in the country, announces that it is obliged to reduce its size on account of a decrease in advertising patronage, due to present business conditions. It further declares that if the reduction in the number of pages does not balance its budget it will be forced to add something to the subscription price until the world's business revives. We have here the key to the situation with regard to many newspapers. Subscription prices cannot be reduced, in fact, they may have to be increased, if they are to continue giving as good service, or even, in some cases, if they are not to cease publication.—Mount Forest Confederation.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

This week's Chronicle may or may not appear in print—it just depends upon whether I can plough my way through the mud to the Post Office. No doubt town people wonder what on earth I am talking about. "Mud," you say, "mud—what's the woman grumbling about now—surely this lovely spring weather would suit anyone?" And let me hasten to add—it does—at least I have no quarrel with overhead conditions, but under foot is a different matter, at least it is at Ginger Farm. One day this week I was going to town and lost my rubbers before I could get into the buggy. The next day I started out with rubber boots. I did not expect to have to get out of the buggy at all, but of course as soon as I got to town I remembered something I wanted, and out I had to get, rubber boots and all. Down at the farm my rain-soaked feet were quite all right, keeping with the general conditions, but when I got to town, and step out onto the clean, dry cement sidewalk, Darling Clementine isn't in it with me and my rubber boots or mud-plastered overshoes. Herring boxes without tops are dancing pumps in comparison! Next week we are expecting visitors who have never been here before, and in giving them directions to locate us, I told them ours was the first house on the right hand side of the road, but if we had any more rain between now and the time of their arrival, all they were likely to see of Ginger Farm would be two red chimney pots sticking up out of the mud.

But still things are never so bad but what they might be worse—it may be the same with worries as it is with heart infatuations—there is safety in numbers! When it is a feat of strength to get strength enough in your feet to get from one end of the barnyard to the other, then there isn't the same opportunity to worry about the budget and its far-reaching results. And now the budget is out, we shall find it is parallel with the case of the ordinary individual—it is not so much what a person—or government, gets that counts, but how they spend it.

Even the budget has its compensations. Since it came out we have been counting our many blessings. For instance, if you haven't got an income you don't have to worry about income tax—it's a mercy they haven't invented an "outgo" tax—then we should be in the soup! Then there is excise stamps—if you can't give any cheques you don't have to worry about stamps—except when some person who ought to be labelled, hands you a cheque minus a stamp. And then everyone who is as fond of the cup that cheers as I am must breathe a sigh of relief that no new duty has been imposed on that commodity. Wouldn't it be awful if we had to economize on tea? Fancy having friends in for the afternoon and not be able to afford this comfortable little form of hospitality. Tea is the best social anti-freeze I know. 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