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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor.

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## EDITORIAL

### Where the Money Goes

The question of where the levy for County purposes goes on the tax rate was answered in the County Council proceedings, as published last week. The sum of \$216,301.45, it is estimated, will be required to meet county expenditure. In addition the sum of \$24,556.10 is needed for the County good roads system. Two items which loom large in the amounts required are of very recent addition to County requirements. The County's share of the Old Age Pensions and Mothers' Allowance amount to well over \$15,000 each year. The High Schools and debentures are the two largest items, at \$67,080.32 and \$85,295.63 respectively. In looking over the amounts it will appear to all that the Council has very limited control over the amounts required. The direct taxation for Provincial Highways in the County amounts to \$4,824.69 for maintenance. The County Council will be commended or a slight decrease in the rate, especially when their control is so limited. That Halton County is in good standing financially is reflected by the price offered for its bonds at this same meeting.

### Improving

According to the recent business summary, issued by the Bank of Montreal, "The tone of business sentiment has improved during recent weeks, under the stimulus of a good harvest, higher commodity prices and the agreement reached at the Imperial Economic Conference. Among the adverse factors in the situation perhaps the most persistent is the low price of wheat, which has this month touched the lowest figure of the year. On the other hand, the crop, of which the greater portion has already been threshed, should prove large, being estimated at 163,000,000 bushels in excess of that of last year, of good quality and sown and reaped to date under favorable conditions, both as to weather and cost. The preference about to be given Empire wheat in Great Britain should ensure a large market there for Canadian wheat, export of which is proceeding on a considerable scale, with charters, up to the close of inland navigation, much in excess of last season. Shipments from the Port of Montreal are already 10,000,000 bushels more than last year, and, irrespective of market price, the more abundant crop will advantage transportation interests by land and water.

### Just Words

The Canadian Government Information Bureau estimates the wordage telegraphed out of Ottawa for publication during the Imperial Economic Conference at 3,130,000. The bureau has issued the following: "Some famous events have been told in a few words, but the Imperial Economic Conference, recently held in Ottawa, cannot be classed among them. This event, which was attended by delegates from the principal countries within the British Empire, attracted 250 representatives of the press of several countries, who telegraphed and cabled during the month the conference was in session 3,130,000 words. It is estimated that the number of words written by representatives of weekly newspapers, periodicals and other publications and sent by mail was at least 250,000, so that the total wordage written during the sessions of the conference was nearly 3,500,000, or equal to about seventy 50,000-word volumes. This means that if the articles written during the conference were bound into books of the same size as the average modern novel, a ten-foot shelf would be required to hold them. How many words were written in the few months preceding the conference and since it closed can only be vaguely approximated, but they would aggregate many thousands."

### Another Milestone

The Acton Fair of 1932 is now a matter of history. Success attended the efforts of those in charge in every way and an increased attendance can be recorded over last year. The possibility of retaining the lower admission fee at twenty-five cents will remain to be seen when a final summary of the gross receipts and the expenditures can be given. The rural fairs that have been favored with any sort of suitable weather have held up well this year in point of attendance. In view of the fact that the C. N. E. showed a decreased attendance, it was generally believed that other fairs would suffer in similar proportion. Such has not been the case, and it seems that the country fair is still very close to the lives and hearts of many and when a decision must be made, the home fair gets the patronage. Financial success is not the sole object of any of these events, else they would have gone long ago. The social side, the friendly competition, the closer contacts than provided by the big fairs, the pleasure of a day in a rural community and the wholesome entertainment and genuine fun of the smaller fairs will always make them an attraction to all. Acton Fair is keeping well to the fore in all departments, and the 1932 event was another milestone along the road.

### A Suggestion We Pass On

During a conversation with a former Actonian at the Fair last week, he made the suggestion that an Association of Acton Old Boys and Girls be formed in Toronto. Each year possibly a gathering of the residents would be held at Acton Fair and all would then be assured of meeting their former friends on that day. We have often wondered why such an Association was not formed in Toronto. We also have a dim recollection of meeting with a half dozen Actonians in Toronto when residing in the city and planning for a gathering in the city. If memory serves us right the project at that time went as far as securing a hall for the holding of the event, but the outbreak of the world war caused the cancellation of further arrangements. Apparently the forming of an Association of Acton folks residing in the city has been occupying the thoughts of others. Maybe many more would favor the plan. THE FREE PRESS has a great many readers in the city so we pass on the suggestion that came to us on Fair Day. If it appeals we suppose the best way would be to have an expression from our readers and from there on the plans of organization might be worked out. We will gladly do our part if it seems advisable to start from Acton and pass on the views of Actonians on the project through our columns, or whatever may develop in the furthering of the organization. It could establish a membership of several hundred.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

It is seldom indeed that the foliage is as green in the last days of September as it is in 1932.

A Toronto paper credits Acton with having held its 90th Fall Fair. It's really only the nineteenth (19th) annual event, and we only desire the credit that is due us.

With transient traders laws and transient residence cards, the best policy would seem to be not to seek far away fields when one cannot do business or live in the home town.

Mayor-Stewart of Toronto issued a warning for transients to keep out of the city if they didn't belong there. It might be a good idea for other municipalities to issue a like warning.

Canada has floated a \$60,000,000 loan in the United States. One would almost think that recent experiences in exchange charges on other loans in the United States would have carried a buy-at-home lesson.

We hasten to explain that the guessing contest in which the editor won a prize at the Toronto Exhibition carried no award of a thousand dollars, or a new car, but was a strip of bread tickets of a kind we can't use in Acton.

Ghandi has won his round by the fasting method. What great statesmen failed to accomplish by other methods, the little man from India has done by this unique method. We doubt if others less notable would, however, have been successful with the same method.

Initial shipments of Canadian apples to the British Isles this season have sold very quickly for prices well in advance of those secured in 1931. In view of the quick disposal and higher prices secured from the first shipments, confidence is felt among exporters that shipments of more than 45,000 barrels now en route to the British market will bring encouraging returns.

There is a total of 5,872 grain elevators with a capacity of 414,660,260 bushels in the western and eastern divisions of Canada. Of this total 5,734 are country elevators, with a capacity of 192,328,000 bushels. Manitoba has 739 elevators with a capacity of 23,751,500 bushels. Saskatchewan has 3,237 elevators with a capacity of 103,855,400 bushels. Alberta has 1,748 elevators with a capacity of 75,344,200 bushels.

## Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

My thoughts are all mixed up with rats, Roger Casement, John Ellis and Ginger Farm, so I guess I had better elucidate if I want to get all these things into their proper pigeon holes.

This mental confusion all came about through seeing a small piece in the daily paper this week about John Ellis, the British ex-hangman, taking his own life in remorse. Memory went back years and years. When I was a little girl at home, we had a very wicked rat, and this rat seemed to have a charmed existence. We set traps, put down poison, kept a full-grown cat, but still the rodent lived. One time we did catch part of him, but the rest got away—I mean to say he left his tail behind him in the trap. At last my mother was persuaded to engage the services of a professional rat-catcher. He came with a dog, two ferrets and a gun, but even at that there was no surrender on the part of the rat. At last the rat-catcher, who could not catch rats, decided to flood the creature out. Falls and pails of water were thrown down one hole and at the long last Mr. Rat came swimming out from the other hole. The dog was ready waiting, and that was the end of the rat!

Now at the time that we were being beset by this prince of rats, the position of public executioner fell vacant. So far as I can remember there were six applicants and among the number was our friend, the professional rat-catcher. I was just a wee thing at the time, but I remember so well this man telling my brother how he had put in for the job, and that he hoped that he would get it. But he lost it, and it was John Ellis who got it.

Years went by, and at the school where I was living during the war there was a vacancy on the staff for a junior teacher—a A. degree essential. The position was advertised and among the applicants was a certain gentleman from Ireland. Now during the war men teachers were particularly hard to get, and it was a good time for those who were medically unfit, but well qualified for teaching, to get headmaster-ships. For that reason the Board decided that there must be a nigger in the woodpile somewhere, for a well qualified man from Ireland to apply for a position in a paratively small school near the East Coast of England. The man, who was not engaged, was Roger Casement, afterwards convicted of high treason, and hanged by John Ellis.

The teaching stint was evidently a blind, but I doubt it would have suited Roger Casement very well to have been so conveniently near to the East Coast, where he might have carried on his espionage work for some time without being detected. The East Coast was naturally chosen as being the centre of activity on account of troops continually going backwards and forwards.

What a kaleidoscope affair is Life, with odds and ends connected with other people flashing across our path like bits of colored glass, all helping to make a complete pattern.

Speaking of color brings me back again to the subject of pickles, which I never thought to mention for a year at least. Last week when I wrote I had quite finished pickling and canning for this season, and on Wednesday I was still at that blissful stage, but then I started all over again. How could I do otherwise? There were tomatoes, just yearning to be made into chili sauce, there were peaches, almost being given away in the stores, and there were a few empty sealers in the cellar. Now every wide neck bottle, has got something in stored away for the winter. And yet what I have done is nothing to what some people do. One woman told me she and her girls had put down fourteen eleven-quart baskets of peaches alone.

One night this week Partner was away to an U. P. O. meeting. I had been canning all day—perhaps that is why he went—and I was still at it when he came home, but now I can safely say I am through—absolutely and entirely—the only thing we have to do now is eat 'em.

Partner also has "something accomplished, something done." The fall wheat is in at last, and for the last few days he has also been able to work Nell, the grey mare who had an infected foot. The horses are quite a worry. Every night Partner turns them out to pasture. The fences are all in fair shape, and yet it is quite a matter for conjecture where the horses will be in the morning. Fences mean nothing to Perch if he decides to go anywhere. He climbs them, jumps them down, as the mood takes him, and where he goes? Well follows, but poor old Prince, being lame in the foot, is left behind to whinney. Perch and Nell, now having broken bounds three times this week, are now confined to the stable in disgrace.

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### SLATS' DIARY

By ROSS PARQUHAR

Friday—Ant Emmy is worried about her nephew witch lives over in Washington county because his wife wrote to Ant Emmy and sed Horace had a cut in his weekly stipend. Ant Emmy sed she did not know just what a stipend was but his family all ways did, half to have a lot of Operachans.

Saturday—Effy Tate is considerably unbarressed now and evry buddy smiles when they see her. her engagement was announced the other day and the paper up to the city set her for her Kelted and in her Kelted she sent the noose paper a K ray pitcher witch had talk of her left lung. They did not print it tho.

Sunday—Pa is afraid to go to work at the noose paper office witch he works at the fire. He let a Aler get in the paper about the fire across the creek last Thursday. The peace sed. The fire is thought to have been caused by a Xposed Wife in the Attick.

Monday—well we had a stake supper out in the back Yd. tonite and pa was saying to Ant Emmy and I that he had red a lots about how Endustrious a ant is but he sed he noticed they all ways find time to go to a Picknick-emy ways.

Tuesday—Ernie Hale was a rested today becuuz he went threw a red light and the judge ast him why did he do it and Ernie sed he new he shud of waitid but he was prest for time so the judge sed well we will fix that so he give him ten days. I gess thats plenty of time.

Wednesday—Ma went to the Ladies Ade society today and she sed it was a offie dull affare becuuz they talked about the very same people they talked about last month at the Ladies Ade society meeting.

Thursday—Bilsters mother and father enformed him that he has got a little sister down to the Hossipitle. Bilsters sed he druther had a brother even if he had of had to wait a few weeks longer for it.

### SPEAK UP, MINNIE

Teacher—"Johnny, use the word 'minniature' in a sentence."  
Johnny—"Is Minnie a chewer of gum?"



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