



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor.

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EDITORIAL

Testing Time

During the World War anyone who wanted work could have it. First-rate salaries were paid second-rate men. At that time the thoroughly prepared worker had little advantage over the one who was unprepared. The industrious and intelligent were very little better off than those who did as little as possible and thought less. Times have changed. Employers are not forced to accept anyone they can find. They can afford to be "choicy," and they are. They are looking for trained workers and it is not hard to find them. They are demanding intelligent workers, and there is an increasing supply of them. Industry is a qualification on which they lay stress, and lazy people have no choice. If the demand for workers was always greater than the supply, there would be little opportunity for testing yourself. The horse that is the only entry is bound to win the race. It is a good thing, however, for some to find out early that the difficulties thought so trifling may be an unsurpassable barrier to success.

Increase in Grain Shipments

During the month of September, 1932, an avalanche of grain poured from the elevators at the Port of Montreal into the capacious holds of ships of British and other countries register. The deliveries of grain for export from the Montreal Harbor Commission elevators during September totalled 15,184,185 bushels, or an average of 506,139½ bushels per day. The September, 1932, total is nearly a 100 per cent. increase compared with the deliveries for export in September, 1931. Since the opening of navigation on the River St. Lawrence, which was early in April, grain deliveries upward up to the end of last month amounted to 77,849,598 bushels, an increase of 14,527,820 bushels over the corresponding period last year. It is expected that during the remaining period of the season of navigation, which closes about the end of November, grain deliveries will be abnormally heavy. Four elevators with a combined capacity of 15,162,000 bushels are operated by the Montreal Harbor Commission.

A Western Situation

An interesting article from the Regina Leader-Post came into our view this week and rather bears out the statements of a writer from the west who recently contributed an article to THE FREE PRESS. Seizure of wheat for taxes and advances for twine and repairs, according to the article, has left thousands of farmers in Southern Saskatchewan with \$100 and less with which to face the twelve months. In the rural municipality of Indian Head, where there are about 300 farmers, a total of 231 seizures for taxes have been made. The writer of this article goes on and gives specific cases, showing the amounts that farmers in various sections have left after their obligations have been met in the matter of taxes and supplies. A quotation from the article reads as follows: "The plain fact of the situation is that, with the farmer getting around 30 cents a bushel for wheat, and with a light yield of less than 10 bushels per acre, he has not enough wheat to go around to all his creditors, and if his crop is seized for taxes or taken for relief payments, he has not enough left to live on. Added to that, he has to save enough for seed for next spring. Binder repairs and twine relief given this fall by the Saskatchewan Relief Commission represent the first charge to be met by farmers, after that comes taxes, and the situation revealed in the municipalities visited was that other creditors came nowhere, since the wheat did not last for their turn."

A One Way Scheme
When local business firms are being canvassed for business by the agents of Toronto firms it would be well if they could keep in mind the Toronto bent of mind. The Mayor of Toronto recently advised all firms in Toronto requiring printing not to let their orders leave that city notwithstanding that printing firms in that city obtain twenty-five times as many printing orders from the outside as leave that place for other parts of Ontario. The other day Controller McBride, who is also obsessed with the Toronto idea, declared: "I'd build a wall around Toronto. We have got to protect our industries." It is a long time since Toronto was dubbed "Hogtown," and perhaps in a degree it is deserving of the appellation. If the principals governing trade in Toronto were carried out to their logical conclusion the manufacturers there would have a market of 700,000 people who would live, as an exchange remarks, "by taking in each other's washing."—Milverson Sun.

The Door-to-door Canvassers
This week Toronto is planning a complete check-up on door-to-door canvassers. Selling trifling odds and ends to housewives has become a racket. The police have had so many complaints of late that a thorough survey is to be made. Perhaps the city will be able to curb this household canvassing which has become a nightmare to the woman in the home. Brampton has had its share of "panhandlers" and salesmen of all kinds. The other day an elderly gentleman, ostensibly eligible for the Old Age Pension, went from door to door selling pictures of the Peace Tower. Unkempt, the robust men come every now and again with pencils, pins, or needles for sale. If Toronto puts a ban on these canvassers we can expect to have many more of them. There is some door-to-door selling that is quite legitimate, but it is not fair to our townspeople, who are anxious to care for the needy in our own municipality, to be bothered now before Toronto sends a crowd of them packing?—Brampton Conservator.

A Big Spread in Price
With folk willing to buy British anthracite in preference to American fuel and unable to get it at near a comparative cost, it seems, according to a newspaper dispatch, that an investigation into the spread in price is due. According to an article recently published, it costs approximately \$6 per ton for British sized anthracite laid down in Montreal harbor, and from \$9 to \$11 more per ton delivered to the consumer in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. The British trade and navigation report for August says "sized coal" exports to Canada for the month were 166,424 tons valued f.o.b. the British port at \$213,591. In Canadian tons and money that is 186,394 tons at \$1,025,236, or \$5.50 per ton at par of exchange. The exchange advantage in favor of Canada was 88½ cents on the pound sterling, which works out at \$1 per ton, leaving the net f.o.b. price at \$4.50. Atlantic freights to Montreal averaged approximately \$1.50 per ton during the month, making the net prices f.o.b. Montreal approximately \$6 per ton. It is made abundantly clear that no charges of gouging the public are being levelled against the retail trade, but the charge is levelled that there can be no justification for a spread of from nine to \$11 per ton between the laid-down price at Montreal and delivery prices to consumers in that city, in Ottawa and in Toronto. The matter has already been directed to the attention of the combines section of the Department of Labor. Some difficulties exist because one party to the alleged combine is outside Canadian jurisdiction. If that party refuses to submit to Canadian inquiry it will be that much harder to put the extension on coal preference through the Canadian House.

EDITORIAL NOTES
The third session of the 17th Parliament of Canada was opened in Ottawa, with the customary traditional ceremony on Thursday, October 6.

To-day is a momentous one in Canadian history, when the result of the deliberations of the great Imperial Conference are scheduled to go into effect. The argument of whether Remembrance Day will be observed as a public holiday generally is again up for discussion. The point seems to have yet not been definitely settled in business circles.

If anyone believes that rural fairs are declining in popularity a view of one of these institutions on a fine day will dispel all doubt and the wide awake fairs are drawing their goodly crowds of friends and patrons.

The Marlatt tannery, at Oakville has been reopened after having been closed down since the first of July. It is claimed the industry secured assistance through the agreements reached at the Imperial Conference.

With the intention of housing the second largest telescope in the world, construction will begin shortly on an observatory at the University of Toronto. The instrument is of the reflecting type and will be finished some time in 1933 when the observatory will be fully completed and taken over by the University for administration. The building and equipment of the new institution will cost about \$500,000.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

Comparisons are said to be odious, but I often find that comparisons at times are perfectly ludicrous—at any rate they appear to be in my case, because my duties are so many and various that what I am doing one day is no criterion for what I shall be doing the next. For instance, last Monday I was up to the eyes in washing and ironing and varnishing stove pipes, and on Wednesday I was vigorously cleaning out hen-houses, but, sandwiched in between came Tuesday, when I was dressed up in my best hat and tucker and was away to address the Women's Institute on the subject of Canadian authors. Ye gods!—if only my audience could have seen this Canadian author (?) the day before and the day after! I thought of it when I was busy in the henhouse, and the comparison of both occupation and attire kept me chuckling for quite a while. Fortunately what the eye does not see the heart does not grieve and these things have to be done anyway, but by contrast the practical things of life do seem rather funny. Lovely things have been happening this week—among others I have been left a fortune. Well, perhaps I shouldn't say that exactly because to be strictly correct it has only been lent, and a lot of people wouldn't call it a fortune at all. Truth is, a lady of our acquaintance has a perfect treasure store of books from which I may pick and choose as I like. If only I could borrow the lot to go with them! As it is, my reading is rather like a small boy trying to make a candy stick last indefinitely—just take a nibble every now and then. Perhaps, after all, that is the best way with good books—taken in larger bites one would miss so much of their charm. One book I have just finished is "The Road," by Warwick Deering—a delightful book. How much reading people would miss if there were no Warwick Deering. One is always better for having read any one of his books. A chapter or two for instance can be a tremendous help in relieving the monotony incidental to henhouse hygiene.

Another book I read was "The Friendly Road," by David Grayson—quite a different type of book altogether but the very best kind for farm people to read. Such an understanding book—David Grayson knows so well the drudgery and monotony that can accompany farm life unless we are keenly aware of its disadvantages and the beauty of its simplicities. Last Sunday I heard a splendid sermon and the preacher started off with this cryptic remark—"A person without imagination is only half alive." Well, you know that is so absolutely true. Where would we be if it were not for our imagination? Would life be worth living at all? Our horizon is limited or expanded by our imagination; we are creatures of circumstance only so far as it controls our thoughts and emotions. Now, more than at any other time, do we farm people need to draw on our stock of imagination for the practical everyday needs of life. When a farmer sows his seed more cheerful if he imagines he may get a dollar a bushel for it when threshed, and when a calf is born, if the farmer thinks he might as well knock it on the head for all he will get out of it, why he very naturally gets depressed, but if he imagines the calf will grow into a nice little heifer some day, and in due course of time bring in adequate return out of feeding and caring for his calf and if after all it doesn't come up to expectations he won't have lost any more by hoping for the best than if his outlook had been gloomy. And then again if we imagine the taxes may be lower this year we may even get quite anxious to see the tax bill arrive, just to have our expectations verified. Of course, if they're not—well, that's a horse of another color—er—er, I don't think we will go into that just now! Better stick to imagination.

There is another thing imagination can do—it can help our sense of appreciation. For instance, up to the time that it would not be a bad notion to raise a second family, so out comes one tidy with one. It's a chick which she has hatched out all by her lonesome; another one comes along with two; and a third is the proud possessor of nine little fluffy chicks, but I am very much afraid if imagination helped to hatch them, it will take more than imagination to rear them.

LEAN PICKIN'S
She—"I know nothing but good of Alice."
Other She—"Then let us talk of some one else."

SLATS' DIARY
BY ROSE PARQUHAN

Friday—Pa is talking about joining up with a debating society I don't no what his object in joining a debating society but he will cum out about as usual in his debates here at home.

Saturday—Ant Emmy is all excited about the man which is working in Ekstines jewelry store. He cum from Switzerland and Ant Emmy thinks mebbe he is a count or a Earl or mebbe a Prints of sum country like Whales or etc. because Mr. Ekstine told her this 'gy cum over in the pearage.

Sunday—They was a talking about Jobs pattenas at Sunday skool this morning. Well mebbe he was very patient but I happen to no he never had to try & start a 2nd handed ford on a cold morning. & all so I wood like to see how heed ack if a Be flew in under the windshield and got to playing around with him.

Monday—well ma quit washing this morning long enough to go up stairs and tawk to a agent and when she got back to her wairning why she owned a new mannicle set. she told Ant Emmy she didden no what she was a going to do with it but the Agent convinced her she cudden get a long without it.

Tuesday—Pa and ma has ben talking about the altitckle electshun and they do not a gree a tall. Pa ended up this evening by saying to ma that the word half to admit his argument was sound, and ma replied and so.

Wednesday—well Ike Flater was finely successful in curing his Arma by eating hickory nuts, and now he has to have a operashun for the Hickory nuts.

Thursday—I am kinda wirred tonite about Jake. We was playing Indians and we captured him and tyed him to a tree and the fire bell rung and when we went back from the fire none of us cudden remember wear we tyed him, but I spose we will find him in the morning, mebbe.

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