



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor.

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EDITORIAL

Dodging Responsibility

Dodging responsibility is not a sign of modesty. It is an indication of laziness or cowardice. Many people will not accept responsibility because they are afraid of making a failure. They are unwilling to take the blame if affairs go wrong. Others shun responsibility because they do not like the work involved. They prefer to "let George do it," and get the credit or the blame, whichever it happens to be. No one amounts to much who is not ready to take his share of responsibility. Indeed, that willingness is a measure of success. The outstanding men of every generation have claimed responsibility as their right.

Accidents and Compensation

The summary of figures for the Workmen's Compensation Board of Ontario for the year 1932 shows a total of 41,470 accidents reported during the year, a decrease of 11,424 from the number during the prior year. The fatal accidents numbered 247, as compared with 339 during 1931. The total benefits awarded during the year amounted to \$5,125,195.56, as compared with \$6,021,393.10 during 1931, the 1932 figures being made up of \$4,307,955.18 compensation and \$817,240.38 medical aid. Taking a basis of 300 working days, this would show average daily benefits awarded of \$17,084, requiring an average of 698 cheques per day. There was a decrease in the average number of new claims reported daily from 176 in 1931 to 138 in 1932. The accidents reported during December numbered 2,960, as compared with 4,088 in December the prior year.

Mineral Production in 1932

A preliminary estimate of Canada's mineral production in the year 1932 is placed at \$182,710,000. Of this total metals accounted for \$103,133,000, non-metals, \$56,779,000, and clay products, cement, lime, stone, sand and gravel, \$22,798,000. The principal item in the metals was gold, the output of which for the year is estimated at 3,055,168 fine ounces, valued at \$69,259,000, including \$6,103,000 paid as premiums on account of exchange. Production of gold in 1932 increased 13.4 per cent. over the previous year and was 142 per cent. higher than in 1923. The mines of Northern Ontario accounted for 2,280,442 ounces of the year's aggregate output with a value of \$47,140,918 or 74.65 per cent. Production in the Province of Quebec amounted to 411,247 ounces, worth \$3,501,230 or 13.46 per cent.; British Columbia, 202,351 ounces, valued at \$4,182,900, or 6.62 per cent.; Manitoba, 119,379 ounces; with a value of \$2,467,783 or 3.91 per cent., and Yukon Territory, 41,748 ounces, valued at \$842,336. Silver production was 18,333,838 fine ounces, worth \$5,818,000, most of which came from Cobalt, Ontario, and the Sullivan mine at Kimberley, British Columbia. The output of other metals included copper, valued at \$14,746,000; nickel, \$6,987,000; lead, \$5,420,000; and zinc, \$4,112,000. Coal production was 11,786,580 tons, worth \$37,441,000. Natural gas was valued at \$9,873,000 and petroleum \$2,891,000. The yield of asbestos from the mines at Theford, Quebec, was 118,407 tons, with a value of \$2,897,000.

False Charges

General satisfaction of the public will be felt with the conviction of J. J. Harpell on a charge of criminal libel. The stories and charges published by Harpell's journal were rather disconcerting to those who had established faith in Mr. Macaulay and the Sun Life Assurance Company, which he has so ably headed for many years. Now the proof that these stories were without foundation has been established. Undoubtedly much harm has been done to Mr. Macaulay and his company through their publication. While the punishment handed out to Harpell may not seem very harsh, it is to be hoped that it will be sufficient to establish a lesson to others that false charges cannot be made unless they are grounded on fact. In summing up the case, Chief Justice Green-shields said that Harpell had failed absolutely to prove his statements regarding Mr. Macaulay as made in the witness box. Further, the Chief Justice said: "Now you had no justification; not the slightest justification for the publication of this atrocious libel against a man who has occupied an honorable position, an honorable and successful business position in Montreal for well nigh half a century at least."

The Last Straw

In these days of the annual meetings of Fall Fair Associations it is quite the common state of affairs to learn that these institutions operated last year at a loss and many of them are facing deficits. Viewing this situation, the Brampton Conservator sums up an editorial on Fall Fairs thus: "There are those who are familiar with the working of fairs who declare unhesitatingly that the old Fall Fair has outlived its usefulness and that greater results would follow the expenditure of half the amount if given to the School Fairs. This is a matter that might well engage the attention of the Minister of Agriculture, and the different associations, large and small." Undoubtedly the Department of Agriculture will willingly seize upon such an item to justify the reductions of grants to Fall Fairs this year, as such a move has been rather broadly hinted at previously. While it is readily admitted that the Fall Fair in every community has its weak points, it is just as reasonable to suggest going away with the Canadian National Exhibition, as stopping all the rural fairs. If the rural fairs are stopped it will mean just the ceasing in a few years of the larger exhibitions. True, many of the fairs were not paying last year and created debts, but many another enterprise did just the same thing last year and yet will not cease to exist but carry on. After all, where did the prize money go which was paid out to the exhibitors at the Fall Fairs last year? In most instances it came right back to the communities and helped farmers meet some obligations. If there ever was a time when the farming industry needed encouragement it is right now. Cut off the rural fairs and make the farmer do without this encouragement and about the last straw has been added to his plight.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Halton County Council will meet at Milton next Tuesday, when among the first items of business will be the selection of a Warden for 1933.

The Ontario Liberal leaders are demanding an election this year: This will not likely be one of those cases where "Ask and ye shall receive" will not be practised though.

In Fergus, at the inaugural session of the Council a motion was passed with only one dissenting voice that the Council would not accept any remuneration from the municipality for 1933.

The transient visitors to Acton are apparently well satisfied with the hand-out that is being given them. At least their numbers are not decreasing any and Chief McPherson's register is getting quite a volume.

Mowat and McGillivray, the last of the mining brokers to be released from prison, were let out last week. They served a little over two years of their five-year sentence and were kept in the Collins Bay institution.

While this winter may be considered an extremely mild one, the crop of ice being harvested and the hockey games played to date are evidence that more severe freezing weather has been experienced than was the case last year.

The fans who persist in smoking at Acton Arena and in other arenas we have visited are spoiling the game for the players and hundreds of others. It would be real sportsmanship to forego the smoke while attending the arena.

In Chesley a government position was to be filled. We read that from the twenty applicants only three were considered and these were all returned soldiers. Of course this was a Dominion appointment. In Halton it is different.

Double the amount of coal and coke was handled by the Toronto Harbour Commission during the 1932 navigation season. A grand total of 1,061,995 tons was unloaded on the wharves which was a 100 per cent. increase over the amount handled in 1931 and four times the amount handled in 1930.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

I would like to raise a question—it is this: (a) At what age can a child be trusted to go out by himself without getting into mischief? (b) Does a child become less mischievous or more mischievous after the age of nine? (c) Are boys more mischievous than girls?

Of course you will understand that I have a reason for making these inquiries, as indeed I have.

Our son has just had his tenth birthday and we were beginning to think that he is getting past the age when we need to wonder where he is, and what he is doing every time he is out of our sight. A few years ago if I didn't see the children every half-hour I thought they had surely fallen in the creek or wandered on to the railway track. Or if they were late home from school I was certain they had been struck by a train on the level crossing or run over by a car. In fact I had them dying a dozen deaths before I would look out of the window once again and see our daughter sauntering across the field, stopping every little while to pick flowers or to climb a tree to see if her latest find of little birds had grown any wings yet. Or perhaps it might be our son, coming home the longest way round, cheerily whistling and swinging his bag to the extreme detriment of home work books enclosed therein, both of them quite unconscious that they had dawdled long enough to cause me any anxiety.

But one gets used to anything in time, and so I have given up worrying unduly about the time they get home. They have nearly two miles to walk—someone asked me the other day how far they had to go and how long it took them to get to school. "How long," I answered, "oh, about forty minutes to get there and about an hour and forty minutes to get back!"

And so because they have been given more independence, I naturally concluded they were to be trusted to look after themselves at the Sunday School supper, which was held last week. Perhaps they were—in fact I am sure they were—as far as any gastronomical performance was concerned, but alas, the unexpected always happens and certainly what happened at the Sunday School supper and concert was most unexpected.

Previous to the day of the supper the Sunday School stove and stove pipes had been cleaned out and the soot deposited

on the ground at the back of the school. I knew all about it—in fact I had seen the pile of soot—but that could hardly be called a matter of conversational interest, so of course I did not even mention it, either at home or abroad.

The children attended the supper and nobly lived up to Nelson's exhortation that every man should do his duty. After the supper, Pat and his friend, Albert, apparently went outside, intent on searching for new worlds to conquer. What their adventures were supposed to be I don't know, but apparently they included racing around the Sunday School grounds in the dark until they ended up by tumbling over each other and on top of a soft mound, down which they rolled. The mound was the aforementioned pile of soot! According to their account they did not know what they had struck until they got back to the light in the Sunday School and each saw the plight of the other. Happily their mothers were still at home—oh, the bliss of merciful ignorance!

During the concert Albert's mother and I were at the back of the room—the boys—whom we had not seen—were somewhere at the front. I enjoyed the concert and the eager faces of the children as they listened expectantly for their names to be called for a prize.

Our son was among the prize winners and came down with great joy to show his book to me. I didn't see the book—what I did see was our son's . . . his hands . . . his shirt . . . his sweater! There wasn't a hole in the floor, but it's a wonder I didn't make one in my anxiety to drop into something!

You would think that such a public exhibition of his abilities would satisfy our small boy for a little while—but not! On Sunday we had visitors in the afternoon—the children were away at Sunday School. In due time they arrived home and when Pat found an opportunity he asked me, in a mysterious undertone, if I would come out to the kitchen for a minute. With a foreboding of trouble I went, and heard a halting confession that on the way home from Sunday School he had gone sliding on the ice and fallen into the pond! He was cold and soaked through to a little above his

knees, but certainly more frightened than hurt. That was once, anyway, when retribution for breaking the Sabbath was swift and sure.

So now, having read thus far, you will not be surprised when I repeat my question as to what age a child can be let loose without getting into mischief.

But boys will be boys—thank heaven for that—and what do a few scrapes matter, providing children are truthful and honest and are taught to be careful of people's feelings and respect other people's property. Dirt will wash off and wounds will heal but not the dirt of slanderous words or the wounds of intended wanton malice.

Every careful and observant mother knows when her child suffers from worms. She also knows that if some remedy be not speedily applied much harm will result to the infant. An excellent preparation for this purpose is Miller's Worm Powders. They drive worms from the system and set up stimulating and soothing effects, so that the child's progress thereafter is painless and satisfying.

YOUR HANDS AND HEALTH

Soon, when you go to your doctor he will not ask to see your tongue, but your hand.

The question of the shape and lines of the hand is becoming increasingly important as medical research is revealing closer relationships, not only between hands and character, but also with disease. This applies particularly to mental disease, but diseases of the nervous system, the heart and lungs, all leave their mark on the hand.

The lines of the hand, so well known to the palmist, are assuming, too, enormous importance, in particular that known as the Line of Heart.

In humans, this line usually turns up between the index and middle finger. In orangutans it runs transversely straight across the palm. In some few humans it does this, too. It is commoner for this type of line to be seen amongst Eastern races than Western.

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