



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor.

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EDITORIAL

We Must Continue Our Share

In these days when funds are hard to raise or collect, there is a tendency to neglect needed repairs and upkeep on buildings and the consequent decay of material will, in a few years, mean a greater outlay and larger expenditure. An example of this is to be found locally in the outside condition of the Town Hall. For several years the exterior of this building has needed several coats of paint to preserve the wood and give the building a better appearance. Now many of the window frames are in bad condition and will have to be replaced and windows reglazed. With the cost of materials and labor at present prices—the lowest in years—these repairs could be done to real advantage this year. It is not true economy to allow the building to continue in this state under any condition. Aside from the fact that a certain amount of employment would be given, it would be good business to undertake this work this year. Another item that could be done in Acton this year without any just charge of extravagance being levelled is the continuing of a water main west on Main Street, to serve a considerable number of taxpayers of this district who at the present time also lack any adequate fire protection as well as service with water. No doubt these suggestions will bring criticism. We do not argue the advisability of making extensive improvements at this or any other time to create employment and be a burden on the taxpayer. But we do believe that we of the present time owe our contribution toward the maintaining and extending of public enterprise and that it is good business to take advantage of present-day prices to make such repairs, rather than leave them all for those of other years to consummate.

Meetings and Conferences

The big discussion at the Halton County Council last week evolved around the school grants. We are in rather a peculiar position in writing this article and must view the procedure from that which transpired last week, although there may be new developments before the article actually appears. We write our editorials on Monday, before the second meeting, a record of which appears in other columns. Just why the County Council should slide out from the responsibility of dealing with the matter of educational grants and seek the opinions of the School Boards is hard to understand. It is but another example of the uselessness of this body. If certain municipalities have not paid their annual levy, why should this body take an amount from that paid by other centres and pay an educational grant to these defaulting municipalities? But the School Boards are called in for a conference and it costs the ratepayers another hundred or two for the meeting alone. While the County Council urges a cut of twenty-five per cent. in teachers' salaries, it is interesting to study the reductions proposed in the salaries paid by this body. The plan of the Ontario Government was used in regard to the members own allowances. A raise was made and now a reduction is taken. The Clerk's salary is proposed to be reduced by about ten per cent., and likewise that of other officials. The Fall Fairs are reduced by one hundred per cent., and yet these grants are spread about the County in the way of prize money to individuals in every section,

and do promote and stimulate the country's basic industry. There we've been outspoken and wonderful results may be achieved at Tuesday's meeting. But all we can judge upon are the experiences of the past and the meetings that have been held. Truly the evidence grows to the argument that we are much over-governed.

Will the County Council Go?

No less an authority than Dr. Horace L. Brittain, managing director of the Bureau of Municipal Research advocates the abolition of the County as a governing body. He terms the County as the middleman between the municipalities and the Provincial Government. While the points stressed in Dr. Brittain's recent speech seem rather lengthy, they provide so much food for thought for the taxpayer that we quote them as follows:

"The last three decades in Canada have had their full share of municipal bodies who didn't know where they were at," said Dr. Brittain. "And the people who elected them by voting or staying at home didn't know either and in addition in many cases didn't know or care whom they had elected. What must be done to bring about planned control? First, we must establish balanced budgets not by increasing taxation but by reducing expenditure." Dr. Brittain declared.

"Secondly, we must limit tax levies to the ability of taxpayers to pay as shown by tax collections. Thirdly, we must appropriate, for some years at any rate, only to the extent of the cash we know will be available. Fourth, we must pay as we go, issuing debentures only for absolutely necessary purposes and where valuable assets are left behind. Fifth, we must establish assured continuity of membership in elected bodies. Sixth, we must reduce the number of departments and centralize large spending operative departments under a single administration. Seventh we must scotch sectionalism in municipal affairs. Eighth, we must give up the practice of going to the Legislature asking for permission to issue debentures without a vote of the people and adopt the general policy, irrespective of legal powers of Council, of referring to the general vote all such matters which may legally be so referred: Let the people whose property is mortgaged by public debenture issues pass on the size of that mortgage. Ninth and most important of all, we must build up a sound and aggressive public opinion. The policy of hush, hush, dangerous as it has proven to be in large privately controlled business, is disastrous in public business.

In conclusion, looking over the field as a whole, we have too many local improvements, too many public bodies with the independent right of spending public money, too many people on Councils, Boards and Commissions, and too many employees acting under their direction.

"In 1929-30 there were in Canada 3,945 municipalities, 26,207 school authorities and say 125,000 members of local governing bodies and possibly 135,000 employees. If the number of municipalities was cut down to 2,000 and the number of school authorities to 3,000 and the number of council and board members to 25,000 there might be less oratory and fewer opportunities for election to office, but there would certainly not be less service.

"To a large extent the boundaries of our counties and townships were established before the coming of the motor car. The county is the middleman thrust in between the local municipalities and the Provincial Government. Why not abolish the county and enlarge the township? We love our municipalities but we could love them and support them better if there were fewer of them," Dr. Brittain declared.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The election of officers of Milton Legion was announced last week. No mention is made of the office occupied by the County Registrar, who was so prominent with the Legion there a short time ago.

In both ice storms this year the weather has been very accommodating and the load of ice was off the wires before any serious power interruptions occurred.

Canada set a new high record for divorces in 1932 when 887 marriages were dissolved. Reno will have to look to its laurels, but then these are changeable and unsettled times, and when the depression is over couples may become more satisfied with their choices.

There are 279,472 acres planted to fruit trees in Canada, according to information obtained from the decennial census taken in 1931. On this acreage there are 10,548,918 apple trees; 1,015,465 peach trees 601,502 pear trees; 822,875 plum trees, and 667,705 cherry trees.

The total value of output of the fur goods industry of Canada in 1931 was \$14,246,993, of which the largest item was women's coats and jackets, accounting for \$8,219,989. Fur collars, cuffs and stoles were valued at \$2,411,223. The balance of \$3,615,781 was for miscellaneous fur products.

There seems to be quite a fuss in some quarters regarding the proposal to limit the radio advertising to five per cent. of the time occupied by the programme. It will undoubtedly delete a lot of the programmes at present on the air, many of which seem to operate on five per cent. programme and ninety-five per cent. advertising.

The passing of Sir Henry Thornton last week marked the closing of a life that played an important part in railroad activities. While still far from old age, his active life and the great responsibilities he assumed wore down a robust constitution until he was unable to withstand the effect of an operation. His death is mourned by a great circle.

The Barrie Examiner says: "Any hockey club that is lucky enough to reach the Junior O. H. A. finals need not worry for funds. In the two games played at Maple Leaf Gardens between Stratford and Newmarket, there was an average attendance of 11,000, and a packed house is sure to greet the teams for the game to-night." But just how much financial returns will the clubs receive from these big gates after the divisions have been made from arena rental and expenses and the O. H. A. share?

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

Our Chronicle this week is intended absolutely for women only — it doesn't concern the male of the species, the least bit, in the world, so everyone of you can just scot—scot—skeddadle—as fast as you know how, because the subject upon which I would write is "Housecleaning!" Oh boy—see them drop the paper—see the look of disgust? "Ugh, bad enough to endure it without having to read about it beforehand!" Can't you hear them say it?

Well, ladies, now we have the paper to ourselves, what I really want to write about is interior decorating. Doesn't it give you a thrill even to think about it? In the spring a young man's fancy may lightly turn to thoughts of love, but there's nothing light about our fancy when we turn to thoughts of housecleaning. It is really quite a serious business—a very serious business—when we also have to consider balancing the family budget. My aim the last few weeks has been to show how living expenses on a farm are often greater than those incurred in town, but this time I find the boot is on the other foot. When it comes down to interior decorating, expenses at a farm house are just about fifty per cent. less than those of a town house. Impossible, do you think when I have already spoken about our large house, with such a large number of large rooms, it does seem strange, doesn't it, and of course our expenses could be much heavier but they are not, simply because the farm women DO ALL THE WORK THEMSELVES.

Of course there are some women in town who do their own decorating, too, but I am sure they are in a very small minority. It is a funny thing... there is something about living in town... I don't just know what it is, but I do know that it isn't because town housewives don't know how to paper, because papering a room came as natural to some of them at one time as does eating porridge to a Scotsman, a great many having graduated from the farm, as it were. I have been puzzling my brain over this matter and I have thought of several reasons which may account for town housewives hiring labor for home decoration.

Houses, being smaller, are in such an uproar when such work is in progress that an orderly woman would rather hire help and get the work out of the way quickly. Or it may be that she isn't strong enough to undertake the work herself; perhaps she cannot spare time from her bridge engagements or it may be that out of the kindness of her heart she wants to give someone a job. Or it may even be that she has a superiority complex!

On a farm we don't have much choice as to what we shall do. However badly a room wants doing, if the farmer's wife can't do it herself, the chances are it has to be left undone. Think of the size of our rooms and the number of them. It is bad enough having to buy the paper to cover them—if we had to pay to have it put on, dear women, like And then you know, most get dabbled up with paint or entangled in a strip of ceiling paper that suddenly decides to come unput.

I used to watch the paperhangers at my home in England and longed to try the work myself, never thinking that it was possible for a mere amateur to tackle such a job. It was out in the West that Partner and I papered our first room. On the place next to us there lived a farmer, who had previously been a paperhanger. We wanted to see how he did our paperhanging. Oh dear, if he ever was a paperhanger, it was no wonder he quit! The paper we chose had a stripe in it, and if ever you have had the misfortune to see striped wallpaper put on badly you will know what it looked like. The next room we did ourselves and that is how we came to do our first papering in self defense.

On the rare occasion when decorators are hired at a farm they are asked into the family meals as a matter of course. It is just as well for the farmer's wife to consider decorating in all its phases before she starts in on her spring cleaning. I never knew any man yet who didn't jib like a balky horse at the very mention of papering a room. "Paper this room—whatever for? Just waste of money—it doesn't want doing at all!"

Oh no, not at all—no room ever would want doing if you let the man of the house have his way about it. Well, fellow-women sufferers, the only thing I can tell you is not to argue about it—that's fatal. Just bide your time and then speak about papering quite casually, as if it were a foregone conclusion. When that has properly sunk in, take particular care to mention how much more expensive decorating is in town because of the fact that skilled labor runs into more money than the cost of the paper. If you properly impress friend and husband with what you are going to spend, the chances are he won't worry very much about the little that you do spend.

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The Voice of Understanding

Don't think because a hobby has not a monetary value that it is useless. Hobbies may round out a life, perhaps point the way to a life vocation. But at least it will help keep you busy, give an incentive to your life.

It may be you are working on a "meal ticket" job and do not have a chance to express your best self. You cannot always do as you want to in business, but in your leisure time you can. If your hobby is books, the treasures of the world are yours. If it is music, you have the radio for your inspiration and example. If it is friendships, remember that they may either be a help or a hindrance. The right kind of friends can open many a window of life for you.

Develop such worth while hobbies as: Story writing. Gardening. Radio contests. Systematic reading or studying. Interesting civic or community affairs. Music. Making things.

One is never too old to learn and a man or woman over 50 can learn to play the piano as well as many a younger person.

In choosing a hobby, be guided by your interests and ability but remember that a hobby can mar or beautify a life.

Asthma Doesn't Wear Off Alone. Do not make the mistake of waiting for asthma to wear away by itself. While you are waiting the disease is surely gathering a stronger foothold and you live in danger of stronger and yet stronger attacks. Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy taken early, will prevent incipient condition from becoming chronic and saves hours of awful suffering.

SHIP'S CHRISTENING

The custom of christening a ship when it is launched is a relic of the ancient libation which was practiced when ships were launched. The ancients consecrated the ship to the god whose image she bore. The action of blessing ships is alluded to by the monks of St. Denis. In July, 1418, the bishop of Bangor was sent to Southampton to bless the king's ship to insure successful voyages.

SMALL BOY'S NAIVE EXCUSE

A small boy with a bad silver in his toe was taken to the doctor by his grandmother, who was recovering from a severe heart attack. While the doctor removed the silver the little boy cried a great deal. On the way home he looked up at his grandmother and said, "I'm sorry I cried so hard, grandmother, 'cause I know a broken heart is worse than a silver, but you're older than me." — Chicago Tribune.

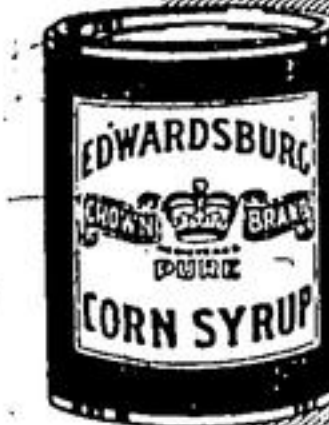
NOT LIKELY

Teacher—Correct this sentence: "It was me that split the ink."
Pupil—It wasn't me that split the ink.

LONELY BECAUSE VICIOUS? OR VICIOUS BECAUSE LONELY?

One of the most sporting fishes from the point of view of the angler is the giant pike, called the muskellunge, states the Fish and Game Department of the Canadian National Railways. Unless it suffers an untimely demise, it grows to 8 feet long and 100 pounds in weight. It is ferocious, cunning, exceedingly bad-tempered; its teeth are sharp and wolf-like, and its habit is to live alone. Whether the "musky" is lonely because it is vicious, or vicious because it is lonely, the Department does not say and this question may be more appropriately left for students of piscatorial science to answer.

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9 in T **SHOE POLISH** Various Colors Tin 10c

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2 No. 2 tins **21c**

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