



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor.

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EDITORIAL

Halton is Heard From

Last week we were favored with a copy of the speech of the Halton representative in the Ontario Legislature. For so many years we were accustomed to hearing nothing from Halton representatives that the item was news. Mr. Blakelock was very pointed in his address and his criticism of the Government and their expenditures in various branches. Many specific items of waste of public money were given in the address and the representative from Halton apparently had the interests of his constituency in mind when framing his oration. He touched on subjects of vital interest in the County and referred in no uncertain terms to the political patronage that was displayed in Halton in the matter of appointment of the Clerk of the Surrogate Court. He also touched on Hydro matters and the changing of the power cycle in his home town of Oakville.

Let the People Decide

Premier Henry and Senator Meighen and their colleagues are having a rather hectic time defending their positions just now in relation to the holding of Power bonds which were acquired by the Government and upon which they personally gained by the transaction. Premier Henry readily admits his mistake, and Senator Meighen, according to press reports, is willing to submit his conduct to any tribunal. The average run of folks have had plenty of investigations during the past two years, and while the points may be settled according to the proper procedure, they have failed to give an understandable settlement in the minds of the man about the street. If Premier Henry is willing to go before any tribunal in defence of his actions as head of the Ontario Government, let him go to the people. There should by all means of fairness be an election this year, anyway, and if the actions of the Government have been in the best interests of the public the Henry Government will have an endorsement by the vote of the electors that they may well consider the highest. Many questions are being asked these days of the Henry administration, and not alone personally of the Premier. In all fairness Mr. Henry should take his party and their record before the public for their judgment. It is not fair to single out the head of the party for all the blame. Surely the members of the Government will not be so centred on self-preservation as to think they may clear themselves by throwing the leader overboard. Premier Henry surely has the right to lead the forces in his campaign to secure public endorsement. He has been felt by his party to be able enough up to the present and surely his one mistake will not lose for him the entire confidence of his followers. Who knows what further questions and the light of an election will bring about. There is only one way to clear the air. Let the public decide and let Premier Henry ask for the decision. Delay will only result in further unrest and discontent. A Government that went into power on the criticism of expenditure of a former regime should be willing to take similar criticism of its own administration and stand or fall by the decision. Let the people decide the issue. Their verdict will be the only satisfactory one.

Rural Hockey

While the larger cities and towns of this Province are still reverberating with the cheers for their hockey teams, the London Free Press calls attention to the growth of the Ontario Rural Hockey Association. In the fall of 1930, due to the initiative of Lorne Johannes, of Blair, Waterloo County, a meeting was called and steps were taken to organize a league catering to rural districts. A few clubs joined. The season of 1931-32 saw growing interest, and this year there are some 50 teams affiliated with the Ontario Rural Hockey Association, and these teams have 700 players affiliated. The Free Press adds that more clubs are clamoring to enter and that this new association promises to be an important factor in the fostering of amateur sport throughout Ontario.

Growth of Urban Population

How great the movement toward the city has been in Canada in recent years is revealed by the Dominion census covering the period from Confederation, in 1867, to the census of 1931: At the time of the Dominion census in 1871 the population of Canada was 81.4 per cent. rural and 18.6 per cent. urban. According to the census of 1931 there were 4,804,728 people in rural Canada and 5,572,058 in urban centres. Expressed in percentages this means 46.3 rural and 53.7 urban. In these sixty years the entire picture of Canadian life has changed. In 1871 there were 81 persons out of every hundred living in the country; while in 1931 there were nearly 54 out of every hundred in the cities and towns. Even these figures, impressive though they are, do not disclose the whole story, for the reason that persons living in small communities and unincorporated villages are recorded as rural dwellers. Actually, according to figures compiled by the Canadian Government Bureau of Statistics, only 31.7 of the whole population of Canada live on farms. There is, however, a noticeable return movement toward the farms now in progress.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Several local individuals are being carefully weighed by public opinion these days. No, there is no local scandal—it's just part of the guessing in the local sketch contest.

In an address in Toronto last week, Premier Bennett urged his audience to have confidence in the integrity of Canada's public men. In view of the developments of the past week, the address was certainly very timely.

It would seem that all countries have enjoyed a grand sufficiency of the high tariff plan. Roosevelt, the new United States President, appears willing to consider a lowering of tariffs in an effort to bring about better trade conditions.

The holding back of Hydro officials' salaries and the reluctance to pare down such salaries as paid to the Workmen's Compensation Board of \$14,000 for chairmanship duties, does not make a very favorable comparison in the school grant reductions of twenty per cent.

The Auditors' Report—was passed by Acton Council this week. This municipality has cause to be thankful for the condition of its financial affairs and when the books are printed within the next two or three weeks every citizen should secure a copy, and give the figures close study.

Next week will be known as "Life Insurance Week." The many advantages of this form of systematic saving may well be considered by all during a brief period. In these times when many other investments have proven very unsatisfactory, life insurance has remained safe and none have suffered through financial loss in this investment.

Congratulations are extended to the Barric Examiner in winning a place on Casey's All-American Newspaper Eleven. On three other occasions the Examiner has won the highest award of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association and now has been selected for this further mark of honor. The Examiner is well worthy of the awards and admired by all newspapermen.

The Ontario Hydro Commission announces this week in another column, a new plan for using the surplus power and assisting the electric industries. This first step toward cheaper power for a convenience is to be commended and it is to be hoped is but the forerunner of other plans to let citizens of Ontario enjoy the benefits of the abundance of electric energy we have at our command.

Judge J. T. Mulcahy, of Pembroke, recently gave judgment for \$1,715 against a widow and in favor of the Mothers' Allowance Commission. The woman had represented herself as without means, but it was shown that she had over \$15,000 in cash and bonds. She had been receiving \$35 a month since December, 1928. In addition to being compelled to disgorge, persons guilty of such graft should be severely punished.—Barrie Examiner.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

Last night I had a dream—one of those dreams that are so real they hang around one all day and of course it was quite ridiculous and inconsistent, as dreams so often are. I dreamed that someone had rung on the telephone and given me an awful calling down over something I had written in the "Chronicles of Ginger Farm." What the trouble was didn't seem very clear. Later on in the day I thought I was worrying away at a jig-saw puzzle when Daughter came in to say a lady wished to see me. I sent word back that I was in the middle of doing a jig-saw puzzle and she must wait until I was through! Then a man, his wife and baby appeared on the scene, also something over something in "Ginger Farm"—(I wish I could remember what it was)—when given the same message man, wife, baby and the first visitor came in a body and ran me to earth in the kitchen, when I was still busily fitting in bits of the puzzle. What they intended to say or do did not transpire because the "magnetic influence" of the jig-saw puzzle claimed them for its own and differences were forgotten also for all crouched over the table frantically searching for the next piece to put in. And then somebody made the awful discovery that a piece was missing but somebody else found it, only alas, it was being chewed up by the baby who, completely ignored, had crawled under the table with her spill. And then I awoke, but an uncomfortable feeling stayed with me all day, almost entirely because of the indignity upbraiding of the lady on the telephone. Possibly the most unusual part of the dream was my apparent jig-saw mania. I can understand people with time to kill getting a craze for jig-saws, but certainly I have no time for an amusement that never gets you anywhere, because when all is said and done even the most difficult puzzle is absolutely futile. I have spent an hour or two over them at odd times, metaphorically kicking myself afterwards for wasting time. Now there are other manias that have a far greater appeal to my imagination—afghan, for instance. In making an afghan, to blend the colors and decide on the most artistic juxtaposition of the blocks is a proposition as puzzling as any jig-saw puzzle ever made and when it is done the afghan, I mean—you have something really worth while, something to show for the time expended on it. But of course by the time the afghan is finished there isn't a scrap of colored wool left in the house, and you have probably made enemies of all your friends by worrying them for their odd lengths of wool. To all of these things I must plead guilty, because I, too, am in the middle of making an afghan. I have done enough blocks for three strips and now I have run out of wool, so my afghanning is temporarily abandoned. Partner was watching me at work one night and wanted to know "what the dickens I was making." "A throw for the chesterfield," I answered. "But we haven't got a chesterfield!" "No, but we might have—one day!" With which cryptic remark I let the matter drop. Having shot my arrow into the air, I hope, some time after the depression, it will land in the right spot. But why should I wait? Isn't it just as sensible to have an afghan awaiting for a chesterfield as it is to have a chesterfield waiting for an afghan? At the present time it also provides one with work and interest, and you have a chance to dry up. I have heard of a few venturesome females who have attempted housecleaning, but no such job for me. At any rate not while there is mud inches deep outside and changing shoes or putting on rubbers is an absolute necessity if one has occasion to step outside the door. In dry weather one can work twice as fast and with greater satisfaction, so why not fill in the interval with something equally worthwhile? Apropos of housecleaning, which is also a time of waiting—I have recently discovered a new invention on the market which is guaranteed to mend practically anything—metal, china, glass or wood. It is going to be put to a thousand uses in this house, because it actually does do what it claims to do, which is more than can be said of a good many patent inventions. I have mended three things today already and dear knows how many more I shall fix before the day is out. It looks as if I may have to open up a casualty ward as already the children have started unearthing treasures which they think could be fixed. As for me, I am beginning to regret the things I have thrown out from time to time as being past redemption. I really took upon this purchase as a real find these days, because anything that can make a dollar stretch a little further is going to find itself pretty popular. I have only one fear and that is that as soon as Partner discovers my manifold uses my wonderful mending solution will disappear and just when I most want it it will be down at the barn, in the driving shed or even out in the field. You know what men are like!

The Voice of Understanding

We have been easily led into believing that only in many possessions was there happiness to be found, but many are finding out that happiness must come from within, and in the developing of their personalities and powers.

Many are saddened and discouraged and are giving undue thought to the things they have. We must get a true sense of values, gather up what we have and build on these. We must make the most of what we have, live one day at a time, distinguish between our wants and our needs and have confidence in the future.

Life is neither all failure nor all success, neither is it all clouds or all sunshine. Life has its tides. It has its rising tide, its flood tide, and also its ebb tide, but we are sure of this, the tide never stands still. We cannot always tell how the tide of our individual lives may stand but sometimes we must wait for it to go clear out with you the tide is low and you are stranded on the shoals of despair. The tide will surely turn. It always has and it always will. But it will take faith on your part to understand this.

There are unexpected tests that come for which no one is prepared. Crisis occur when all one can do is to fall back on a reserve of strength built up from the past. "Every man," said Sir J. Stevens, "has in himself a continent of undiscovered character." Happy is he who acts the Columbus to his own soul. We visit the movies and see the attractive and unusual situations presented and we wonder why our lives cannot be similar. Here, however, not all is gold that glitters. We read in the papers of circumstances and happenings of people which make our own lives seem common place, just routine—no goal or victory at the end of the day. So we must make up for any seeming lack of color in our lives by increased activity, interests, and we must seek these interests in simple as well as in complex things. We are to think new thoughts, accept new ideas, and be motivated by the higher ideals these often bring. This will often bring a real adventure into a drab life. A well fed mind will not despair.

A pleasant medicine for children is Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator, and it is excellent for driving worms from the system.

Adds Zest to the Meal "SALADA" TEA "Fresh from the Gardens"

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