



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor.

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EDITORIAL

The Facts

There is available, at the Municipal Clerk's office this week, the Auditors' Report of last year for the Municipality of Acton. It is a very complete booklet of the town's affairs and there is nothing hid from the conduct of the Corporation. The persons who have not met their obligations are listed so that a fair valuation may be made of these amounts as assets. The Municipal Council, the Waterworks and Electric Light Departments, the Schools, Free Library, Cemetery and Arena and all departments in which the ratepayers are interested are summarized. The debenture indebtedness of the Municipality is tabulated and set forth. Last year Acton's debenture indebtedness was reduced by \$10,000 and a little study of this page in the book gives room for much optimism of the future in Acton for the next few years. The copies are available to every ratepayer and those who would make themselves thoroughly conversant with Acton's municipal institutions should secure a copy and study it. Municipal pride in one's community should be high enough that the ratepayers should have the facts as presented, and not be swayed by the street corner oratory of any individual.

Goodwill Day

In a circular letter to school inspectors and teachers, accompanied by a pamphlet, Hon. Geo. S. Henry calls upon the schools to observe Thursday, May 18, as "Goodwill Day." This day is to commemorate the opening of the Conference of The Hague on May 18, 1899. As a means to bringing about the settling of international disputes by peaceful means the Hague Tribunal did much good. The League of Nations, which was formed at the close of the Great War, to avert future wars, has also accomplished a great deal in its fifteen years of existence. But the inculcation of peace ideals in the minds of the present generation of school children is one that will commend itself to everyone. There are sixty-five countries in the world and fifty-four of these have signed the Covenant and are members of the League. The school children of Wales have taken a leading part in the celebration of "Goodwill Day." This year the text of their message, which will be broadcast, is as follows: "Boys and girls of all nations, we, the children of Wales, once again warmly greet you on Goodwill Day. In this springtime of 1933, there are, all over the earth, millions of children who are unhappy because their fathers and brothers have no work to do. We do not know why there should be so much sorrow in a world which is so beautiful and so much want in a world which is so rich. We believe that this would not happen if all the nations to which we belong would live and work together as members of one family, trusting each other and enjoying together the riches of the earth. We believe, too, that by our thoughts we can help to bring this new spirit into the world. Let us then on this Goodwill Day, millions and millions of us, unite in one great thought of peace, peace between the peoples and peace between the nations. With the faith that can remove mountains our thoughts will change the world."

Help When Help Was Needed

There will be general commendation throughout the rural sections at the action of Halton County Council in reconsidering their former decision and deciding at the last meeting to assist the Fall Fairs financially. True, these are days when the purse strings must be pulled more tightly and many extras done away with. But surely this is not the department to start upon at a time when agricultural activities need every sort of encouragement available. The Fall Fairs are gradually dropping out and each year sees them fewer in number. The money handled by these institutions is mostly paid direct to the farming community in prizes. It gives the farmer an incentive to produce a better product, more suitable to the public demand. And quite often this money so distributed helps the farmer to meet his taxes and finds its way back to the original starting place. Outside the amount of the grant the moral support given by the granting of this money is a consideration. Last year was a year of struggle for the Fall Fairs and other institutions. It is to be hoped that a brighter future is in store this year and next, and that the continued support will be given by all bodies in maintaining these institutions as long as they continue to prove a benefit and encouragement to the County's basic industry and a splendid outing and gathering place in the smaller centres.

What Members Are Entitled to Comprise County Council?

According to a report in the daily papers, the Mayor of Burlington is urging that the County Treasurer pay no fees to the representatives of that town, since they are sitting on the County body illegally. That seems to be rubbing it in rather hard. We have, on several occasions, advocated that the members representing municipalities who have not paid the County levy are on the County Council illegally. But for that matter there were, at one time, only three members of Halton County Council out of fourteen, who were qualified to take their seats at County Council with the levy from the municipalities which they represent fully met. In such a situation we can imagine the Mayor of Burlington has a fine chance of halting the allowances of any of the representatives. His proposition would undoubtedly be voted down in the County Council by an overwhelming majority. In fairness to those municipalities which have paid, the County Council should place in public record the amounts owing by the various municipalities from last year and also advise the public if interest is being charged on these overdue amounts, and at what rate. These are questions the electors of Halton have a right to have full light upon. It will have a decided bearing on law and order and the enforcement of tax collections.

EDITORIAL NOTES

There seem to be many ways of going off the gold standard, but the actual change seems to make very little difference.

The usual fish stories were quite prevalent since Monday and the usual discounts were allowed by the listeners on the fish that made their escape.

With hog prices steadily advancing, and wheat quotations taking a decided upturn the farmer can again take hope and endeavor to struggle on for another period.

The answer on Hydro salaries is still far from satisfactory and just as evasive as other items concerning the conduct of the public-owned power institution of Ontario.

According to the latest figures there are 278 establishments in Canada dealing with fruit and vegetable canning and the manufacture of vinegar, cider, pickles and sauces.

Someone has said that to be a fault finder you require no capital, no talent, no brains, no character, you need exercise no self-denial. There is no calling easier to get a start in. Or one more worthless.

The President of the C. P. R., in a recent address, urged that autoists should be required to halt at railway crossings. There was a day when we agreed with the same idea, but with the present curtailed use of railway tracks by the trains it seems a rather belated subject upon which to address the public.

Canada is officially off the gold standard. Announcement was made by the Minister of Finance in the House of Commons that an order-in-council had been passed providing for the suspension of the existing gold standard law, when deemed advisable. This order, while it now makes it legal for the Government to refuse redemption of notes in gold, does not change the gold backing of the dollar. The official declaration by Mr. Rhodes will have little immediate effect as Canada really went off the gold standard in October, 1931, when an order was passed prohibiting the export of gold except under license. —Barrie Examiner.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

This week, for the first time in its history I completely forgot the Chronicles of Ginger Farm or rather I was so taken up with Ginger Farm that I quite forgot to write about it or it may be because I had two days holiday last week for the first time in ten years and the shock was perhaps a little too much for me. Whatever the reason, I was busily making nests ready for setting, hens when the realization came to me that I had not put pen to paper all the week, so here I am looking back over the week's work, wondering where the time has gone, as usual, and whether I could have done any more had I tried hard enough.

Was there over a time like the spring? I hardly know how to content myself indoors at all—in fact I don't—I work in the house, it's true, but only from a sense of duty. There is so much to see out of doors and so many interesting things to do. If only I had the time I could spend the best part of every day in the garden and put every minute to good advantage, but alas and alack! however much a farm woman may like gardening, there is always other work that has a prior claim. Broody hens, for instance. For long enough our hens wouldn't so much as offer to cluck, and then, all of a sudden, they held a family conference, and about eighteen of them decided to cluck at one and the same time, sitting snugly on the nest boxes and using exceedingly bad language whenever I gathered the eggs or if another hen wanted to make use of the nests. Now every poultry keeper knows, sitting hens in a laying pen are a positive nuisance, so I went to work, cleaned out the back part of the hen house, took out the roosts, fixed up some new nesting boxes and knocked my thumb nail a few times in doing it, and that night put the broody hens to bed with two eggs apiece and covered the hens up to their necks in peevish boxes. When I let them off the next day, with the exception of one good old biddy, every hen quit on the job and when night time came, each of those perticketty hens sat herself down on top of a box instead of inside of it! If a Jew had come along that morning I was mad enough to sell the whole lot. Sit on a nice clean nest—of course they wouldn't, but if I had let those loose, every one of those wretched birds would have gone straight back to the laying boxes and stayed there for a month—if I let them.

To make matters worse my early chickens came to grief as well. There were only twenty of them altogether, and their story runs something like the ten little nigger boys. Twenty little baby chicks, living in a coop, The mother hen tramped one, and then there were nineteen. Nine . . . ten baby chicks playing in the sun. A big dog killed one and then there were eighteen. Eight . . . ten baby chicks went to bed at night. The mother hen tramped four and then there were fourteen. Four . . . ten baby chicks, running round to-day. Whether they run again is more than I can say. Baby chicks—yes, I love to raise them, but getting them is enough to try the patience of a saint. If some of the people who buy eggs had to raise the hens that laid them, from baby chicks to the laying stage, then I'll guarantee the buyers would think the eggs well worth fifteen cents a dozen. But still, after all, it's all in the day's work. Even if one comes away from the hens feeling one would like to use their eggs for ammunition and themselves as a target, yet one's resentment vanishes with the first hatch of fluffy chicks. And if one wants it, there is always a garden for compensation and out in the fields one can see the faithful horses plodding up and down, up and down, pulling the plough that turns the furrow or the cultivator or harrow and oh, joy of joys, finally the drill. When it comes to spring, it's little the farmers think of the price of grain when they set out to work—it may go up or it may go down—it makes no difference to the urge a real farmer feels to till the ground and sow the seed. It is one primitive instinct that survives. It is often said a farmer is a poor business man, and no doubt it is true, especially of recent years. If he wasn't a poor business man he wouldn't be a farmer! And that's that. Well, if I don't soon finish this and get outside I shall get smoke dried or cured, or pickled or something like that. The wind is blowing from the south or the west, or some place where it shouldn't, and the stove is puffing out smoke with every gust of wind that blows, and gradually getting right through the house, in spite of closed doors. A nice smoky day is just fine after strenuous housewifery activities—guaranteed to put any woman in a good humor.

AWAY FOR KEEPS A man entered a hotel, placed his umbrella in the stand, and tied a card to it, on which was written: "This umbrella belongs to a champion prize fighter. Back in ten minutes." When he returned the umbrella was gone. The card, however, was still there, and on it had been added: "Umbrella, taken by a champion long distance runner. Won't be back at all."

SPRING WORK IN THE ROSE GARDEN

A preview of rose plants from within their winter covering would indicate that they have come through with relatively little loss. The first job for the rosarian after uncovering is the pruning of the plants, and this requires some courage, particularly by the beginner, who hesitates to cut away what appears to be healthy wood. After a few warm days—growth in the plants will show itself by the swelling of the buds. Pruning should then be undertaken, cutting away all the weak limbs, and shortening the stronger ones according to their size. Canes no larger than a lead pencil might safely cut to six inches, and stronger canes to a greater length. Four to six inches for hybrid Teas and eight to ten inches for hybrid Perpetuals is a fairly safe rule. Strong old plants, however, may be left longer unless one desires relatively few very fine blooms, rather than more flowers of less quality. There should be no stumps of old shoots visible above ground, when pruning is finished, and in most cases the retained growths should not be over three years old in the case of strong growing varieties, and two years' old in the case of weak sorts. One should examine the wood carefully for dark colored bark close to the ground, the upper part of the canes may look quite sound, but if there is a ring of brown bark lower down, the cane should be cut away below the killed portion without hesitation. It is important that the pruning be done with a sharp instrument, in order to avoid tearing or crushing the wood. A well sharpened hooked-blade pruning knife is the best implement, but sharp pruning shears may be used if carefully handled. The cut should always be made in a slanting position, and it is a safeguard to the plants if a dab of fresh paint is applied to the newly cut stub.

Climbing roses, unlike bush roses, produce flowers on the wood of the previous year's growth, and should, therefore, not be severely pruned. All that is necessary is to remove unhealthy and damaged wood and weak growths that cannot produce flowers. If climbing rose plants are cut low like bush roses, no flowers would be produced that season. Even though the rose beds may not be extended a few new plants may be needed to fill gaps. When the new plants are received the roots, in no circumstance, should be allowed to dry out. It is a good practice when opening the parcel to plunge the roots in water for several hours, or to bury the plant, root and branch in moist soil for a few days. Either of these practices will restore the moisture in the stems that has been lost during the winter season. The plants are then ready to set out.

In preparing the soil it should be deeply and well enriched, using well rotted manure of bone-meal and commercial sheep manure thoroughly mixed and the soil well solidified. Before setting, the ends of the long roots should be nipped off and when planting the roots well spread out in the hole so as to avoid doubling back. The soil must be firmly pressed about the roots, which should be covered about two inches deeper than the union of the canes with the root system. Before the hole is completely filled with earth it is well to pour in a generous quantity of water which will assist in bringing the soil and the rootlets into close contact. If planted on a warm day it is well to set up a shade of some sort to prevent the drying of the stems before the roots have commenced to function in their new setting. New plants require even more severe pruning than is recommended for established bushes. All of the weak canes must be removed close to the stem and not more than two of the stronger ones allowed to remain from four to five inches above the soil. As with any other crop the surface soil of the rose bed should be kept loose by frequent, shallow hoeing or raking. This practice not only keeps down weeds, but allows the air to enter the soil. If after the leaves open, plant lice make their appearance they should be washed off with a garden hose or sprayed with nicotine solution, known as Black Leaf 40, at a strength of one teaspoonful to a gallon of water. The beginner in rose growing would do well to stick to hybrid Perpetuals for a season or two before attempting to grow hybrid Teas, which though more continuous bloomers are less hardy and less vigorous in their habit of growth. Safe varieties for the beginner are Hugh Dickson, red; Mrs. John Laing, pink; Frau Karl Druschki, white. Of the Climbers the new red, Paul's Scarlet, and the pink Tausendschon are hard to beat. A rose that is commanding great attention is the new Climber Blaze, a beautiful red that continues to bloom throughout the season. Hybrid Tea varieties that figure prominently in rose shows and have become popular for their vigor and yield include Made Butterfly, flesh pink; Dame Edith Helen, pink; Earl Haig, red; Betty Upchurch, salmon pink and Julien Potin, yellow, or Souvenir de Claudius Fernet.

Recognized as a leading specific for the destruction of worms, Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator has proved a boon to suffering children everywhere. It seldom fails.

The Voice of Understanding

Sometimes ago a coachman was sent to the railroad station to get a Lord who was to arrive for a visit. "But how will I know the man?" asked the coachman. "Oh, he will be helping or doing something for someone," was the reply.

When the train stopped, an elderly man alighted with a paper bundle under his arm. He was followed by a woman whom he took to her bus and helped her aboard. Then the coachman knew his man. "Imagine being recognized in a crowd by one's manner of service. Many think they cannot serve unless they get into some other form of work, but we can all serve in whatever job we are doing. Service is the return we give to the world for the space we occupy," someone has said. It is the service we give and not the service we can command by our money. Do you want my idea of service? Here it is: One morning I broke a button off my shirt at the collar, as I was hurrying to work. I stopped at a tailor, whom I knew, and he looked for a small button in his button box, but could not find one. Without a word he took a pair of scissors, opened his vest and cut a button off his own shirt and sewed it on mine so that I could get to my office on time. Yours for service.

The Voice of Understanding. Persian Balm—the ideal toilet requisite for every discerning woman. Perfect in results. Creates complexions of rare beauty and charm. Delightfully cool and refreshing. Never leaves a vestige of stickiness. A velvety smooth lotion toning and stimulating the skin. Making it truly rose-leaf in texture. All dainty women invariably choose Persian Balm. It imparts that subtle distinction so characteristic of the elegant woman.

SURE SHE KNEW The mistress was giving the new maid, fresh from the country, a list of the household requirements. "There you are, Alice," she said, "and don't forget we shall want a new grill for the kitchen, too." Alice stared vacantly. "Don't you know what a grill is?" asked the other sharply. "I should think I do," replied the maid. "It's a big, hairy monkey the size of a man. And if you want one of those in your kitchen, I'm leaving at once."

Advertisement for Carroll's products including Walnuts, Lobster, Salmon, Beans, Biscuits, Polish, Cherries, Peas, Pears, and various household items. Includes a 'FREE MAGIC WHEEL OF THIRTY RECIPES' and 'FREE TWO GAME PUZZLE'.

Advertisement for Mill Street products including Mince-Meat, Lemons, Head Lettuce, and Large Seedless Grapefruit.

Mill Street Phone 158 Acton, Ont.