



The Acton Free Press

Published Every Thursday at Acton, Ontario

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor. Editorial and Business Office: 274. Residence: 231.

EDITORIAL

A Question and an Answer

We are always interested in securing comment from FREE PRESS readers, and this week we received a very good suggestion. Here it is:

By the way, you have often spoken editorially in favor of the abolition of County Councils. That may be a long way off. Don't you think you might have better success if you agitate for less members as per communication from the Town of Lindsay? Personally I think Deputy Reeves could quite easily be dispensed with. As far as the present Council is concerned, their voice is hardly ever heard. Take four deputies off and there would be a very substantial reduction in Council and Committee fees. "Deputy," as we understand it, means "instead of." Then why should not the Deputy Reeves attend County Council only at such times as the Reeve is unable to be present, so that the municipality might still be represented? This is just a suggestion. I know you are used to being told what to put in your paper, so I thought I might join the crowd!

Yes, we are in favor of doing away with Deputy Reeves, but we are also favor of doing away with the County Councils. Let us look at the work of a session of the County Council, the last one, for instance, and see if this meeting actually accomplished any good. The biggest item was the granting of moneys to school boards, when the municipalities have not paid into the pooled fund. What is the necessity of paying money to the County and then having it returned? The Department of Agriculture said corn borer inspectors had to be appointed, and they were. The Sub-Committee of Legal Bills ask co-operation in abolishing grand juries, and the County Council agreed. They also agreed with a resolution from Lindsay, for cutting down County Council representation. The Department of Highways told the body what the Provincial grant would be this year. The Warden told what little effort was being made to collect the County rate and how little of it had been collected, and the County Council voted money to municipalities to help them carry on (whose money they voted, we do not know). The one item that they did all by themselves was to favor the construction of a piece of roadway, and we doubt if they will not change their mind before construction is completed. A review of the activities of any meeting just goes to prove that this part of our Government is an added wheel. Several of the items were merely dictation by the Provincial body. The payments of pooled funds won't last long, at the present rate of collection, and the road construction matter was the one stroke of business for fourteen men, with salaries and mileage for a day.

Remember, please, we have no fault to find with the County Councillors, as individuals. The work done under the circumstances they have to cope with could not have been accomplished any more expeditiously by any other group. But was the work necessary or fruitful in the doing, we ask, for the expense incurred? Were not most of the actions governed by the Provincial body and therefore obligatory? Could not the remainder of the duties have been just as capably performed by the County Clerk and Treasurer and the County Engineer? In fact, were they not governed by their recommendations? We believe in democracy, and government by the people, but it seems with ever-mounting taxes and in a country so sparsely settled as Canada, democracy is overworked, and the first essential body to be dispensed with would be the County

Canada's Birthday Saturday

Saturday will mark the sixty-sixth anniversary of confederation. This Dominion of Canada, which we all are privileged to be citizens of, will, on that day, observe its birthday. Not just another legal holiday, but the marking of another milestone in the history of the Dominion. To most it will be a holiday and it is but fitting that it should be observed by all, and time taken off for its proper observance. Canadians have much to be thankful for in the position their Dominion occupies in the world courts. The years since 1867 have smiled very favorably on Canada and now as compared with the conditions of other nations, Canadians may well feel proud of Canada and, like true sons of the Dominion, join in observing its birthday.

Every Man for Himself

Once again Acton is run by two time schedules. With the majority of the factories on Daylight Saving Time, and the actual time of the community of the Standard brand, to say the least, it is confusing. There can be no middle-road. We tried it a our own office. Two of the staff went on the daylight schedule on Monday and the balance adhered to Standard Time. On Tuesday we all went on Daylight Saving Time. It just didn't work. We could run our office on either time and be quite satisfied personally, but it doesn't work well when most other folks are working on Daylight Saving Time; to adhere to Standard Time. We suppose the manufacturers of the community were faced with the same difficulty. With every centre between Toronto and Guelph, and all through this section, on Daylight Saving Time, it must have been confusing for Acton factories to be working on the Standard schedule. What the outcome will be it is hard to predict. The vote last December was conclusively against Daylight Saving Time. It looks like a case of every man for himself.

Closing Its Fifty-Eighth Year

With this issue THE FREE PRESS closes its fifty-eighth year of publication. We would indeed be remiss if we allowed this occasion to pass without expressing our appreciation of a multitude of things which have brightened the way during the year just past. While all has not been rosy and not entirely financially successful, still, the friendships and loyalty which have been tried and found true in a difficult period have been, possibly, a greater and wealthier experience than financial advancement could have been. With the outlook of the present, the future may indeed be viewed with a great deal of optimism. Just from a local viewpoint there is every cause for optimism. A year ago it was difficult to decide whether the bottom had been reached. Now a decided upward trend in conditions is everywhere noticeable. With all the local factories adding to the staffs of employees and absorbing the surplus labor, and the price of wheat and other farm commodities getting back to a level that will permit some return for their production, we all have cause to be optimistic. Throughout all times and conditions it has been the privilege of THE FREE PRESS to record and serve this community, and share alike in whatever conditions the years have brought. To make THE FREE PRESS a community institution, to the benefit of Acton and the district we serve has been our aim. Acton's newspaper was established just two years after the incorporation of the village, and may we be pardoned if we say we believe THE FREE PRESS has kept pace with the growth of Acton. Again we say thank you to all who have in the past assisted to make THE FREE PRESS representative of the town and district in all ways, and next week we hope to start THE FREE PRESS on the fifty-ninth lap of its journey, imbued with the thought of growing better and larger with the town and district as the years advance and maintaining a newspaper and job printing department worthy of the patronage and loyalty with which we are favored:

EDITORIAL NOTES

Queer how much better one game of baseball can make the fans feel.

A popular question, with a variety of answers, in Acton just now, is "What time is it?"

Even the smell of green hides can be sweet when the absence of them has been felt for a considerable period.

We wonder whose money the County Council granted to the municipalities who haven't paid their share of the County funds?

Commenting on conditions, the Bank of Montreal business summary says, in part: "The favorable business reaction throughout Canada which characterized April has extended into May and June, there having been a marked upswing in the volume and tone of trade, both foreign and domestic, in the level of commodity and security prices, and in the extent of general employment. The betterment has not reached all industries, and improvement in some is not yet very pronounced. It is, however, a great gain in itself to have the long-continued fall in prices and production arrested and the plus replace the minus sign in statistical comparisons."

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press. GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

And now the Government speaks of wheat control or rather the reduction of wheat acreage. It may turn out to be a great move—it may—-but, I don't know—I'm just afraid... To limit the supply of anything so vital to human life as wheat is certainly taking drastic measures. I have heard several Ontario farmers with hundred acre farms speak quite enthusiastically of the idea—"That's right, limit the acreage, that's the idea. Less wheat, less work but more money in proportion." It does sound all right, doesn't it, and that's what the Ontario farmer thinks—the man with a hundred acres, including his ten or fifteen acres of wheat. Of course they don't all think that way, generally it's the ones who have no conception of what reduction in wheat acreage would mean to the West.

When we were out on the prairie, Partner had a half section, that is three hundred and twenty acres, as we were only farming in a small way, but our next door neighbor had a whole section, and would put in about four or five hundred of wheat every year. We have seen that man's granaries so full of wheat, that in one instance, a granary full to the limit actually burst—the side walls, which had previously been braced, broke away and the wheat was strewn on to the ground. This crop took four weeks to thresh, and cost, on an average, about \$100 per day to thresh. The following winter this same man would go by our place twice a day. Day after day and week after week and always a grain wagon loaded with possibly a hundred bushel each trip. It was seven miles to the elevator and many of the trips were made when the temperature was twenty below zero, so certainly whatever a Western farmer gets he works for.

Perhaps you will think that it is high time such men had their acreage cut down, but wait a minute—there's another story. After this bumper crop, for three years in succession, we saw this man's fields—the same acreage, the same amount of wheat sown, but the production—well, that was another matter. The acreage was not reduced, but the production certainly was. It was not the Government who did it—it was grasshoppers! Grasshoppers that rose in a cloud as one walked through the fields. Little winged insects, that by their methods, so deadly and sure, can, in a short while, make a field appear as if it had never been sown. If a person has not seen the destruction a plague of grasshoppers can leave in their wake, then they must do some very hard thinking before their imagination can supply them with a picture anything like the actual scene of destruction.

While we were in the West—grasshopper poison was supplied by the Government, was sent out in sacks and came by the car load. Farmers used to make a round of the fields about three o'clock in the morning, scattering poison as they went, but it seemed, though many might be killed, there were always reinforcements waiting to carry on the attack. They were non-political, they were very hard on persons and they had never heard whisper of wheat acreage reduction, but certainly they were the most effectual curtailers of production that could possibly be found. As far as we know, there has been very little talk of recent years about grasshoppers, but now, in the same paper where we read of the proposed cut in wheat acreage, we also read that a grasshopper plague has descended upon the West once more. If the plague is anything like it was as we knew it, then reduction in acreage will hardly be necessary, because the farmers will need every acre they can sow to make up for the loss by grasshoppers. More acres, more work, but alas! less wheat.

According to what we have read, the West has had several fair years in succession, but they don't always have good years, as we know to our sorrow. Supposing, for the next few years acreage is reduced, and grasshoppers and weather conditions join forces with the Government—what then? What Ontario farms produce is only a drop in the bucket, but when we think of restriction in the West, it is a different story, and if the Government steps in with the hope of improving things, at best it can only be a gamble. But still, they ought to know, with so many experts putting their heads together, possibly they have something up their sleeve to meet any unexpected situation that may arise; perhaps they have grasshopper delegates at the wheat conference.

Speaking of reduction—there's sure going to be a reduction in a good many things, if we don't get a good rain soon. The lawn looks like so much gracie wool, the plants that were set out three weeks ago, haven't grown an inch, and the zinnias are budding with stems hardly any height from the ground. I don't know what is going to happen to the spring crop, and there certainly isn't going to be the bumper crop of hay which we had every reason to expect a few short weeks ago. Oh yes, I expect we shall soon have problems enough of our own without worrying about what is going to happen in the West.

Partner is anticipating a water shortage and has invented a contraption which he had made, to fit on the outside pump, so that when anyone wants a drink they can pump out as much water as they like without a drop being wasted. It is really quite a good idea, but I haven't heard Partner say how much he wants for the patent!

NEAR AND CLOSE

Little Ethel: "Mother, are you the nearest relative I've got?" Her Mother: "Yes, dear, and your father is the closest."

THE AWAKENING

"Do you believe in dreams?" "I used to, but I don't now." "And why not?" "I married one five years ago."

PROOF

"Last night George said he'd kiss me or die in the attempt." "Did he kiss you?" "Well he was alive this morning."

FINE, THANK YOU

Sympathetic Neighbor: "How is the boss?" Wife of Invalid: "I'm all right thank you."

NOT HARD

"Don't you find it hard to meet expenses?" "Hard? Man alive! I meet expenses every time I turn around!"

A HALF DOSE ENOUGH

Boxing Instructor: "That was what they call half-hook." Pupil (nursing his jaw): "Well, you can keep the other half."

SCOTCH FENDING

Mrs. McNab: "Ah'm thinking we'll spend next Christmas at home, McNab." Mr. McNab: "Ye're aye thinking of spending something."

TAKING OFF A FEW YEARS

Boy: "What do people have candles on their birthday cake for, dad?" Father: "Oh, just to make light of their age."

LOTS OF DOUGH

Jim: "Why, that guy's got more dough than Rockefeller." Jam: "Really?" Jim: "Sure. He owns four bakeries!"

EXPERT

"Smith is an awful liar." "Oh, I don't know. I think he's pretty good at it."

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES

The strawberry weevil is a hiker. He has strong legs and can walk rapidly for long distances.

Canada is a generous country. She taught New Zealand how to establish the dairy industry, and Marquis wheat was a gift from heaven to the Argentine.

It appears that cool moist weather such as we have in spring is the most favorable for the development of apple scab. Moral: Spray early, and keep spraying.

In South Africa in order to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, even motor cars have to pass through dips containing disinfectants. These dips were constructed by the road sides on the exits from the infected district.

There does not seem to be any "best" time to sow seeds of perennials. If the seeds are obtained in spring they can be sown in May or June, or they can be kept until the fall.

The presence of a large proportion of broken or bruised kernels in seed grain seriously decreases its market value, and further loss is caused by the invasion of fungi after the seed is sown.

Alfalfa has been grown from time immemorial in Persia, and is, perhaps the oldest forage plant in the world.



What a treat!

SERVE Kellogg's Corn Flakes and watch how eagerly appetites respond! Kellogg's are far more than refreshing too. These delicious flakes are rich in energy and so easy to digest they help you feel keener, fitter. Made by Kellogg in London, Ontario.



Kellogg's for flavor

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