



**The Acton Free Press**  
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G. ARLOP DELLA, Editor

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**EDITORIAL**

**Present Levels Anticipated**

According to "The Agricultural Situation and Outlook," issued for the new year by the Department of Agriculture, farm prices for 1938 are expected to remain at about their present levels until the new crops can be appraised. In these times of changing prices this information will be steady at least for this important part of Canada's industry.

The report says further: "The rise in farm produce prices during 1937 was greater than in any other important commodity group. As a result farm produce wholesale prices compared favorably with those of other groups for the first time in eight years. It is probable that a substantial part of this recovery in prices will be maintained, and that relationships between agricultural and non-agricultural prices will not be seriously disturbed during 1938."

**Record Gold Production**

Canadian gold production continued its forward march during 1937; when the output, which includes the gold bullion from gold mines, gold in blister copper produced in Canadian smelters and gold in ores exported, passed the four million mark for the first time. Preliminary estimates place the 1937 output at 4,054,799 fine ounces which, when valued at \$34.99, the average price for the year of Canadian funds, amounted to \$141,877,000, a gain of \$10,500,000 over 1936.

Increased production was recorded in all provinces except Alberta and Yukon Territory, and near the close of the year Canadian mines were producing gold at the rate of \$400,000 a day. The long established mines maintained their outputs and production from the younger properties continued to increase. About fifteen new properties entered production during the year. In addition to the usual expenditures of the producing mines, large financial outlays were made in the development and preparation for production in 1938 from gold properties in the Lake Athabaska region, in the Larder Lake district of Ontario in the Cadillac-Mattaric area in Quebec and in several other areas throughout the Dominion.

**Experience**

Barrie Council has under consideration the matter of paying members of the Council for their services. In other centres we note that the same subject is a municipal topic of interest. After a period of trial in Acton, the matter has never received consideration again since its discontinuance three or four years ago. The question always arises that if Councillors are paid why not every other branch of citizenship service. And this question is usually answered by the fact that no municipality can afford to pay for all these services.

On the other hand, public spirited citizens can afford to give a share of their time to the interests of their community and a division of the work is better from a community standpoint than the payment of a few officials. The argument is sometimes advanced that payment for services brings forth a better type of official. In Acton such has not been the case. Reeves and Councillors who have served, without remuneration have been of the highest type and compare favorably with those who drew an allowance for community service. The question has many debatable points both ways, but after a trial of payment for services in Acton, the plan was discontinued and the municipality has gained not only the amounts, but a better co-operative conduct of municipal affairs.

**Anniversaries**

Back in the early days the beginning of the year seemed to be quite a popular time to launch new newspapers. Consequently this week splendid journals among our exchanges are noting anniversaries just now. The Smith Falls Record-News commences its fifty-second year of publication. Under the guidance of Editor A. E. Dobbie, it is one of Ontario's outstanding weekly newspapers and a force not only in its community but well beyond. Incidentally Editor Dobbie is a Limehouse boy and served his apprenticeship years with the Georgetown Herald.

The history of the St. Mary's Journal-Argus dates back eighty-five years and the anniversary is observed this week. Editor-Lorne Eedy follows in the footsteps of a very worthy father, who edited the St. Mary's newspaper for a number of years. It is kept well abreast of the times in every respect. The Free Press joins in congratulations to these newspapers and their progressive publishers.

**Big Gain in Construction Last Year**

The current issue of "Construction Trade" shows a gain of 36.2 per cent. in construction work of 1937 over that of 1936. A total of \$222 millions was the amount of last year which was a gain of 50 millions over the previous twelve months.

With four years of increase behind it, the industry is now aiming directly at the 1931 level of activity and, at the present rate of progress would attain this in 1939.

On the evidence, if possibility is excluded, of major economic upset or a great war, the earnings of construction in 1938, aided by projects reviving from depression paralysis, should amount to not much under \$275 millions.

Should this hope materialize, the industry will have returned this year not only a large part of the way toward 1931 volume but as well all of the way toward the ten year average volume for 1918 to 1927, a period characterized in the main by normal national development and business conditions.

Largest percentage of increase took place in Quebec, where the total for 1937 was \$69 millions, representing a \$23 millions gain or 50 per cent. better than in 1936. Quebec's share is 31 per cent. of 1937 Dominion activity.

Ontario, however, in keeping with its record for previous years, contributed 43.6 per cent. of the 1937 total for Canada. The Ontario total for the past year was \$96 millions, a gain of \$25 millions over the 1936 figure, or 35 per cent.

**EDITORIAL NOTES**

The cost of relief in Ontario dropped from nearly \$22 million to a shade over \$13 during the past fiscal year.

Saturday is the last day for the 1937 auto markers and judging by the red and white plates still in use, there will be the usual last days of rush.

Stock taking, balance sheets and such things have followed the year-end closing in quick succession. None of them exactly of the holiday spirit, either.

Sometimes one wonders if that junction point for highways, at Mill and Main Streets, gets all the accumulation of snow left there from all directions.

Asbestos production in Canada during the first ten months of 1937 totalled 342,502 tons compared with 242,556 tons in the corresponding period of 1936.

New motor vehicle sales in Canada during the first ten months of 1937 were valued at \$130,453,875, an increase of 28 per cent. over the corresponding period of 1936.

The Grimsby Independent says: "After people have eaten church suppers, worth twice what they paid for them, they feel they have made a noble contribution to the cause of religion."

Evidence that citizens appreciate home town bands is found in the recent voting in Collingwood and Orillia. By-laws were passed authorizing annual grants of \$1,200 and \$1,500 respectively in those towns.

In England, the loss from milk bottles not returned to dairies is said to total about \$800,000 a year. Yet dairies could easily overcome the loss if they followed the practice which is becoming more general in Ontario of charging a nickel for every bottle which goes out of the dairy. People would cease being careless with milk bottles, or would not use them for household purposes, if every bottle cost them a nickel.

Many people are still under the impression that a clergyman has nothing much to do except conduct services on Sunday. While it is impossible to list the many duties and demands that are made upon an active cleric's time and strength, the following report for November, submitted by the Brampton Conservator, may give some idea of what one was called upon to do. Pastoral calls, 74; sick communions, 9; meetings attended, 22; telephone calls, 62; private interviews, 30; funerals, 7; weddings, 2; Sunday sermons 9.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**  
FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 1938

**BEGINNING A LIFE OF SERVICE**  
Golden Text.—The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe in the gospel.—Mark 1: 15.

Lesson Text.—Mark 1: 14-28.  
Time.—A.D. 28. Place.—Galilee, near Capernaum.

Exposition.—I. The Definite Call of the First Disciples, 14-20.

The imprisonment of John the Baptist to forsake Jesus for Galilee (v. 14; cf. Matt. 4: 12). It was an act of prudence on His part. He began with the same message with which John had begun (v. 15; cf. Matt. 4: 17; 3: 2). Part of the cry ("Repent ye") was the same as that of the Old Testament prophets (Isa. 55: 7; Jer. 3: 22; Ezra 10: 6; 18: 30; 33: 9), but there was an addition, "Believe the glad tidings." The kingdom of God was at hand, because the King Himself was at hand. If the Jews had received Jesus, He would have set up the kingdom of God then and there. As He was rejected and crucified, the outward establishment of the kingdom was postponed. Simon and Andrew were attending to their own business when Jesus called them into His work (v. 16; cf. Ex. 3: 1-4; 1 Kings 19: 19-21; Matt. 9: 9). Jesus called them into a work of the same character that they were already doing; hither to they had been fishing for fish; now they were to fish for men. The ordinary fisher catches fish to kill and eat them; the Gospel fisherman catches men to make them alive and feed them. Jesus gave them the command, "Come ye after Me," and the promise, "I will make you fishers of men."

Commandments and promises always go hand in hand in the teaching of Jesus. The day when these men were called to Peter was no wonderfully fulfilled that Peter caught more men at a single haul than he did fish on this day (Acts 2: 14-44). The one great condition of success in fishing for men is following Jesus, and any one who is not a fisher of men is not a follower of Jesus. Simon and Andrew showed that they believed Jesus and appreciated His call by leaving all and following Him (cf. Luke 5: 11). The one who would follow Him must forsake all (Matt. 16: 24; Luke 14: 33). Forsaking all will pay; for those who forsake all gain all for time and eternity (cf. Matt. 1: 2; 28: 29). There was no hesitation in their obedience, "straightway." James and John were also attending to their business when Jesus called them (v. 19). They, too, unhesitatingly obeyed. They not only left their boats and nets, but their father as well (cf. Matt. 10: 37).

II. Jesus' Power as a Teacher, 21, 22.

"Astonished at His teaching" (the Greek word is a very strong one); this was frequently the result of Jesus' teaching (cf. Matt. 7: 28; 13: 54; John 7: 46). That which astonished them was that He was not a mere commentator on what ancient men of God had said, but He taught them as one who Himself taught directly from God. They recognized that a God-sent man with a God-given message was speaking. Jesus indeed claimed authority above that of Moses and all the ancient men who spoke from God (Matt. 5: 21, 22, 33, 34; Luke 11: 32; John 3: 3; Heb. 1: 1, 2). We ought to teach with authority, but we can only do it when we speak "as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4: 11).

III. Jesus' Power Over Demons, 23-28.

There was one man in the synagogue who especially needed help, a man who had come under the power of an unclean but real person, "an unclean spirit." Demoniacal possession is quite common to-day in heathen lands, and is not unknown in our own in certain kinds of lunacy and some forms of clairvoyance and spiritualism. The presence of Jesus, filled the demon with terror. He recognized Jesus as "the Holy One of God," and he knew his own doom must soon come, and he feared that it had come now. "Art Thou come to destroy us?" he shrieks in terror. The presence of Jesus always stirs up the devil and his minions. It is not a bad sign to have the devil rage in a community or a church. The terror of this demon at the approach of Christ may suggest to us how evil men will feel when He comes again. The devil and every form of evil always asks to be "let alone." But Christ will not let alone (John 3: 8; Heb. 2: 14). The demon had the most correct and extensive knowledge about Jesus of any one in the synagogue; it is evident that orthodoxy is not salvation (Jas. 2: 19; Romans 10: 9, 10; Gal. 5: 6). Jesus' answer to the orthodox confession of the demon was very brief, "Be silent (literally, muzzled), and come out of him." Jesus never accepted the testimony of demons (v. 34, 37; 11: 12; Acts 16: 16-18).

The demon did not wish to come out, but he had to. He made a last struggle and gave his victim a parting blow. He made himself felt and heard, but the cry was one of despair and this awful struggle was the last. It is the devil's way to make a last struggle before giving up his hold upon a man (Rev. 12: 12). The people earlier in the day had been "astonished" that He taught with authority; now they are "amazed" that with authority He commands even the mighty demons, and they obey Him. But neither astonishment nor amazement is conviction. The report of His mighty power spread like wild-fire in the whole surrounding country. The people were not accustomed to real miracles.

**FLOOD ESCAPE THRILLS**

It was a series of thrills for E. C. Schreiber and his family, of Hukluwe, Zululand, when they tried to get through a flooded river in their car, on the way to Durban. They decided to let the natives push them across the swelling stream. Midway they heard a mighty rushing sound and saw a wall of water sweeping toward them. The natives fled. Schreiber helped his wife and child from the back seat, and they ran for the bank. The wave hit the car and threw it over the edge of a weir into the river nine feet below. After finding shelter for the night, Schreiber returned to the scene of the disaster next day and fished out the car with the aid of the natives. He had another thrill when he stepped on the starter and the car responded instantly. He continued on his journey at once.

**NO, HE DIDN'T!**

"You can't say I made any noise coming home last night."  
"That's true, but the three friends who were carrying you did."

**SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK** By R. J. SCOTT



WHEN A KANGAROO IS IN A HURRY HE CAN GET OVER THE GROUND IN HOPS MORE THAN 50 FEET LONG AND 9 OR 10 FEET IN THE AIR.

VICE PRESIDENT JOHN C. CALHOUN PROPOSED ABOLISHING THE SINGLE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, AND CREATING TWO PRESIDENTS, ONE FOR THE NORTH AND THE OTHER FOR THE SOUTH, TO BE IN OFFICE AT THE SAME TIME. CALHOUN WAS VICE PRESIDENT FROM 1825 TO 1832.

GLIDERS BUILT A DECADE BEFORE THE FIRST AIRPLANES, PURSUING THE WRIGHT BROTHERS' IDEAS FOR THEIR FLYING MACHINES.

MANY TYPES OF PLANES ARE SHOWN ON STAMPS OF FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA.



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SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS—Independent, well-managed, established on personal ability, honesty and industry—fortunately abundant in Canada. Many of them have all the elements of increasing success. They may need only sound financial assistance to make them eventually large and important contributors to Canadian prosperity. Conservative borrowing may be a constructive step.

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**Fifteen Lost Surveyors Rescued From Starvation**



Fifteen members of a Quebec survey party mapping the boundary between Ontario and Quebec in the frozen wastes east of James Bay were left virtually foodless for 36 days, when they failed to locate a food cache planned for them. Their plight became known when a search party reported the cache untouched and searching seroplane located the stricken party's camp just in time to save the emaciated men from death by starvation. This picture of the camp was taken by a pilot of one of the rescue seroplanes, and shows Octave Lapointe, cook for the group, standing in front of the cook tent. Bearded and weakened by cold, and hunger, Lapointe and his companions were bundled aboard the seroplane a few minutes later and flown to Moosonee, Ont., on James Bay.