



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

A Worth-While Effort

Once more the County Music Festival is over and once more Acton Schools, under very able directing, have won splendid standing in this annual competition. The weeks of strenuous training and extra long hours have been rewarded with a splendid rating. Choirs soloists and other groups all ranked well and Acton School brought home a major share of the prizes in the classes entered.

This is, of course, an achievement and citizens generally are proud of the accomplishment. But what is really of more importance is the musical training being provided as part of the educational system. The opportunity to exhibit this work is, of course, essential to keep the work inspired and therefore the annual festival is necessary. Conditions this year were indeed most unfavorable for the holding of the festival and entailed some hardship in their fulfillment. But, after all, it was really worthwhile and teacher and pupils are to be heartily congratulated.

Are We Losing Our Favorite Topics?

Like every other editor, we have had subjects upon which editorials could be written upon repeatedly. But it would appear the list is getting smaller. Of course the second line highway has been a favorite for years. Last year the Government assumed this road as part of the Provincial system. Some work was done on it, but it appears the subject will still stand some discussion before the project is complete. Just what work will be done on it this year has not been intimated. Perhaps the building season will open that question again.

Now it also appears that another favorite topic is in danger of elimination. Both Provincial Liberals and Conservatives seem in agreement on the abolition of the County Councils, and why not? With the Province now assuming entire charge of all highways, Mothers' Allowance and Old Age Pensions, there is little left for the County Councils other than the passing of resolutions giving opinion on subjects of moment and otherwise.

For some time it would appear the Provincial Government has been working toward the point of abolition of the County bodies. More and more duties have been taken away from this body until to-day there seems nothing left that could not be handled by the Municipal Councils. For verification of this statement, just analyze the proceedings of any meeting of the County Council.

Cost of County Councils

The Fergus News-Record some weeks ago compiled interesting figures regarding the amounts received by the County Councillors in various Counties of the Province. According to these figures, Halton County costs are very favorable in comparison. In fact they are much the lowest in the district.

These figures show that the average amount received by members of Wellington County Council was \$533 a year. In other Counties in this part of Ontario, the amounts paid to Reeves and Deputies were far lower. Welland was second, with an average of \$367 per member; York was third, with \$361 per member. Other figures were: Waterloo, \$148; Simcoe, \$137; Dufferin, \$129; Peel, \$127; Halton, \$75; Bruce, \$136; Grey, \$158; Huron, \$127. These last eight all average under \$200 per member per year. By comparison, the average allowance of \$533 paid to the Wellington Reeve and Deputies is disgraceful.

"Agreed Charges" are a Threat to Small Shippers

Possibly no piece of current legislation deserves more careful study than the new Transport Bill now under consideration by the Dominion Parliament. Part Five of the Bill, authorizing "agreed charges," introduces a feature so new to Canadian transport practice that it is difficult if not impossible, to realize the revolutionary changes that may be made in railway freight structures if the bill becomes law.

Agreed charges are in many ways similar to the rebates that large shippers were able to secure on their freight rates before the present Railway Act was passed. The proposal in the Transport Bill is to allow railways to make agreements whereby under certain conditions special freight rates will apply to the goods shipped by certain shippers.

Presumably, if agreed charges are permitted, it is the large shippers who benefit. There does not seem to be any logical reason for a railway to offer a special rate if that will divert to its lines only a few tons of freight. The question naturally arises, what would be the effect of agreed charges on the numerous small shippers scattered throughout the industrial centres of Ontario? Provision is now made for the prevention of discrimination in freight rates against any business; but the safeguards against discrimination through agreed charges apply only to goods shipped under similar circumstances and conditions. Apparently a manufacturer in one town would have no case if he protested against a favorable freight rate granted to a competitor in another community.

Since the large shippers are mainly located in cities like Toronto and Montreal, the threatened chaos in freight rates is also a serious threat to the existence of small industrial centres. It is obvious that if a manufacturer in a town or village is to be faced with this new element of competition from the larger city he will seriously consider moving his plant to get the advantage in freight rates enjoyed by his larger competitor.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A moderate building program for Acton would fill a community necessity. There is a real need for houses modernly equipped.

No more fancy colors and thin letters for Ontario motor license plates. Yellow and black, with heavy letters, are to be used next year.

If winter still has any more definite kicks to bestow before leaving, it's to be hoped they are no heavier than the one of last Friday.

The output of gold from British Columbia last year reached a value of \$17,614,100, a new high, and a gain of eleven per cent. over 1936.

Voting by newspaper ballot seems the latest craze for securing public opinion on timely topics of the day. It at latest, gives folks a chance for an outlet to their feelings.

Building permits issued by 58 cities in Canada during February had a value of \$2,361,957, an increase of 27.9 per cent. over January, and 10.4 per cent. over February, 1937.

A popular subject for debate these days is that of sweepstakes. Fortunately the bill will have to pass the Dominion House before becoming law and here it will be most thoroughly debated.

The Y.M.C.A. opened up a new field of activity when their first play presented met with such whole-hearted reception. Primarily arranged to secure funds for the Y, it has attained much more than its original purpose.

Do you know that in Ontario during 1937 approximately 800 people were killed by street and highway accidents caused by motor vehicles? These accidents have injured between 12,000 and 13,000 men, women and children? Ontario's economic loss occasioned thereby reached the astounding total of \$40,000,000?—Barrie Examiner

A Toronto psychologist predicts that within fifty years children two years old will be going to school. Recently another observer expressed the belief that education should continue up to the student's thirtieth year. As there are people who maintain that men from 55 years up should be pensioned, we may imagine a world in which all the work is done by the age class of 30 to 55. Montreal Gazette.

In his book, "Tickets To Fortune," which reviews the whole question of lotteries, Eric Bender reaches the following conclusions: "Any state that legalizes lotteries will have a new source of income, but must also be prepared for the following consequences: It will gain a few thousands of dollars at a cost to its people of millions. It will increase its own relief problem. It will encourage new rackets and racketeers. It will not be able to frown upon other forms of gambling. It will do incalculable harm to the morals of its children and its adult irresponsibles. It will increase public disrespect for government."

MAKING CANADA

A Better Place in Which to Live and Work

A Series of Letters from Distinguished Canadians on Vital Problems Affecting the Future Welfare of Canada

Specially Written for Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association

Dear Sir:

May I say that I like the way your press association is tackling its job in striking out to get some dominant and constructive note relating to the activities of your fellows of the weekly press. Their influence, I would think, is the most powerful influence in this country and so could be a great factor for good or evil. I think they are nearer to their compass than anyone else, except possibly the physician and the clergyman, but they have the advantage over these two of speaking regularly and at some length to all their people.

I think that if on the spur of the moment I had to urge some program upon the weekly editors I would urge that they use all their influence to incite in the people of their communities a real sense of citizenship. It seems to me that Canadians, probably like people of other countries, have not developed this sense in the full. By this sense of citizenship I mean a consciousness of the privileges we enjoy as members of a democracy with a full appreciation of the responsibilities which those privileges entail.

I mean also a local patriotism of an intense and pure character but second in intensity to a national patriotism. I think Canada by reason of geographical circumstances, with barriers such as the thin strip between Quebec and the Maritimes, the waste dividing Ontario from the Prairies, and the towering mountains between the Prairies and British Columbia might be more vulnerable than more compactly arranged and densely settled countries to the development of sectionalism and frankly I don't see how this country is ever going to get anywhere unless cohesion is developed to a greater extent than has prevailed in the past except in times of national emergency. I readily see that this prescription of mine is not an easy one—even if in your view a good one—so advocate through a press which must be acutely "location-conscious". But I really do not see that



W. F. PRENDERGAST

there should be any real conflict between the two patriotisms, local and national. I firmly believe that the proper interest in local problems can be expanded into a constructive interest in national problems.

With the improvement in communications, with the linking up of the country by fast air services, with radio, and with better and more complete news services available to your press I think many influences are at work to promote this better sense of national citizenship.

I do appreciate the compliment implied by your writing me in this connection and I extend to you and your association my heartiest best wishes for a successful year.

Yours truly,

FRANK PRENDERGAST,

Assistant to the President,

Imperial Oil Limited, Toronto.

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DIPHTHERIA DANGERS

Every child between six months and 12 years of age—if not already protected against diphtheria—should be given toxoid treatment.

This warning is issued by the Health League of Canada, which points out that the earlier a child is given protection the better. Special attention is drawn to the subject at this time because in the past many parents delayed until late in the Spring, with the result that the summer holidays arrived before the third inoculation.

Up to the beginning of this century diphtheria epidemics took a terrible toll in this Province. With the discovery of anti-toxin in 1894 the control of diphtheria really began and in a few years, the death rate was considerably reduced.

Diphtheria is a most dangerous disease. When it occurs, the child may complain that the throat hurts or there may be a croupy cough. Usually some fever is present, with an increased pulse rate. Before the doctor had anti-toxin from 25 to 40 per cent. of diphtheria victims died. To-day, among those given treatment within two days not one in fifty dies. Delay means death in many cases.

When toxoid was discovered, a further reduction in diphtheria deaths occurred, for toxoid prevents the disease being contracted. This newer product is diphtheria toxin modified in such a way that its poisonous qualities are removed, yet it retains its power of stimulating the tissues of the body to manufacture their own supply of anti-toxin. This remains as a barrier against the disease for a long time, probably for life. Toxoid is not a serum. It is administered without causing pain or illness but it takes time to act. Three doses are given at three weeks intervals. As pointed out, it is important to have all three before summer vacation.

With the general adoption of toxoiding, diphtheria incidence fell off splendidly many cities in Ontario having a record of no cases in years. During the past three years, the number of children immunized has not been maintained, with the result that diphtheria is on the increase again and health authorities are alarmed.

In the absence of adequate preventive measures, Ontario might suffer a serious epidemic and for this reason renewed efforts are to be made this year to secure a wider use of toxoid.

MUST LABEL FERTILIZERS

Every mixed fertilizer on sale in Canada must contain at least 14 per cent. nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash, singly or combined. Minimum quantities for each essential nutrient. Fertilizer constituents materials are standardized and subject to minimum percentages of plant food substances. Every fertilizer must be labelled to show the brand names and guaranteed analysis.

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Dry, rotted shingles catch fire like kindling! But with Council Standard Tite-Lap roofing you needn't worry about flying embers or sparks. It is good for a lifetime and is sold with a 25 year guarantee. This guarantee is backed by a reliable firm with a background of years of service to agriculture. Ask your banker. Tite-Lap roofing comes in large sheets that are easily handled. Fireproof, weatherproof—does not crack, bulge, shrink or curl. They may be put on right over your old roof. Send ridge and rafter measurements for free cost estimate.

Eastern Steel Products Limited

Manufacturers of the famous Pratley Steel Truss Bars, Tite-Lap metal roofing and Jamboree Pastry Equipment.



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FARMERS NEEDING MONEY sound banking. Our branch to finance the costs of planting—money for wages of parts of the Dominion are workers, for seed, equipment, fertilizers, etc.—will find at the Bank of Montreal a ready and willing response with the manager of our nearest branch regarding your need for borrowing to prepare for a profitable harvest.

BANK OF MONTREAL

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Acton Branch: W. H. CLAYTON, Manager

Acton Stores can Fulfill Your Needs—Give Them First Chance

Anti-Fascists Stage Montreal Demonstration



Anti-Fascist demonstrators in Montreal were routed by police when they staged a riot outside the Italian consulate. Five of the demonstrators were arrested when mounted police were fired to charge the milling crowd. The above picture shows demonstrators haranguing the watching crowd before police swung into action.