



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

More Accommodation but Fewer Pupils

The comparison of Inspector Denyes in his report on Acton Public School last week regarding attendance is to say the least interesting. The enrollment at present is thirteen less than it was twenty-five years ago. The population of Acton has increased by three or four hundred and yet the number of children of school age is smaller. It has apparently been all adult growth in population.

School accommodation has been increased during this period by an addition of three rooms to the Public School section, in 1914, and later the acquisition of a new building for the High School. Of course the field of subjects has been enlarged and to-day the school pupil receives a much improved course of study. But just when additional rooms for more new courses are advocated, the presentation of these figures give some food for thought. Families are certainly smaller than a quarter of a century ago. But it does appear that the present accommodation is ample in view of the facts presented in the Inspector's Report.

Ample Provision for Employment

Young folks of Acton and district who are athletically inclined certainly have no cause for complaint on the facilities provided here. Winter activities at the Y.M.C.A., the Arena and in a number of social ways are just concluding. The Park has been prepared and made ready for the sports there. The bowling greens and tennis courts have been having attention for some weeks and will be ready just as soon as those who enjoy these activities are ready to participate.

In every activity fees have been kept at a minimum to encourage all to take part and make it possible for numbers to enjoy the facilities rather than any favored few. The tennis and bowling facilities at the fees asked have only been possible through the co-operation of the Beardmore Co. Evidence that Acton folk do enjoy these privileges is not lacking. The Tennis and Bowling Club report a successful season and are very optimistic and interest is keen in sports carried on at the Park and invariably a good group are enjoying the privileges. It's small wonder that many young folks prefer to live in Acton and are loathe to leave such facilities.

A Commendable Campaign

The campaign being conducted in various centres throughout the Province, checking on the mechanical defect of motor cars is commendable in every way. We understand it is sponsored largely by the Garage Operators' Association, which has been organized to bring that branch of business activity on a better level and render an improved service to the public. A motor car which is defective is indeed an unsafe thing on any highway. Accidents are difficult enough to avoid even when all the equipment is functioning properly.

Motorists should be ready to co-operate fully with such a safety campaign. If a driver operates a car, knowing it to be in faulty condition he is a menace to every one using the highway. We believe most motorists want to prevent accidents. No one wants to deliberately cause injury or damage. When repairs are shown to be necessary, it is the duty to have them made.

We will welcome a widening of the checking up. Those sponsoring the safety campaign are deserving of credit. A motor car in good condition provides a great deal of usefulness and pleasure, but machines not in proper condition are a menace to public safety.

It's in the Grading

"We wouldn't think of buying Ontario potatoes, particularly at this time of the year," a Toronto friend remarked the other day. "We always buy potatoes from the Maritimes. When you buy your potatoes in small quantities as we do because of lack of space for storage, a few bad ones or small misshapen ones makes a big difference. Also the potatoes from the Maritimes are so clean and nice."

And therein lies a tale of woe from the standpoint of the Ontario farmer, a tale the blame for which lies at the door of those self-same farmers.

Following up these remarks, we glanced at the Toronto potato prices the proof of the pudding, so to speak. P.E.I. potatoes were quoted at 90 to 95 cents per bag; New Brunswick, 75 to 80 cents a bag; and Ontario No. 1's from 40 to 45 cents a bag.

Yet official figures reveal that Ontario actually has a greater acreage planted to potatoes than the Maritime Provinces, and there is no doubt but that just as good if not better potatoes can be and are produced in Ontario than in the east. However, there is one thing that the Ontario potato lacks and that is grading, while most of the eastern potatoes also have the advantage of being cleaned and polished.

If the Ontario farmer is to secure this very worthwhile home market, then Ontario potatoes must be graded just as eggs are at the present time. The uniformly superior product is always going to capture the best markets.

Grading and polishing stations could readily be established through co-operative effort with very worthwhile results for the benefit of the farmers. Co-operative effort is the hope of the farmer, but until the farmers are willing to enter such an organization bent on following up its true meaning and convinced that the better product should get the better price, even if it be the product of a neighbor farmer and not his own, co-operatives are doomed to fail in achieving success.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

It's the Taxpayers Own Fault

It cost \$1.25 per mile to ride on the Canadian National Railways in 1937, and yet there are still people who believe that Canada's railway problem is not urgent. Kenneth R. Wilson, staff writer of the Financial Post, points out that whether or not you rode on a C.N.R. train in 1937, or whether you shipped a dollar's worth of freight over the nationally owned railway the \$1.25 per mile still comes out of your pocket.

As a matter of fact the revenue received by the government from sales tax, taxes on tobacco, sugar, beer and cars was all swallowed up in 15 years by C.N.R. deficits. The Canada Year Book of 1937 reveals that the cumulative deficits from the C.N.R. have risen, from \$211,000,000 in 1927 to approximately \$1,027,000,000 in 1937. The situation is responsible for a very large proportion of Canadian taxation.

In 1937 total earnings of Canada's two railways were \$340 millions from freight and passengers services. Of this sum 80% or \$198 millions, accrued to the Canadian National and the remainder, \$145 millions, to the C.P.R. The latter met all its funded debt obligations and added something over one million to surplus. The C.N.R. was forced to seek \$22 millions from the public purse to even meet its interest charges on funded debt held by private investors.

If that state of affairs doesn't soon goad our politicians into action at the behest of the people who elect them, then it seems to us that Canadians deserve all the high taxes they have to pay. Unification, not amalgamation, is the only solution to this problem, and over a period of five years which it would take to bring about unification, it is estimated that deaths and ordinary retirements from service would preclude any possibility of employees being thrown out of employment. Bowmanville Statesman.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Silver production in Canada for the first two months of 1938 amounted to 3,001,900 ounces, compared with 2,713,309 ounces in the corresponding period of 1937.

The waters are taking an early toll of life this year. Already a number of drownings have occurred and the bathing and boating season has not yet been started.

The Globe and Mail are to be congratulated on their fine new home in the William H. Wright building. The special edition on Saturday, descriptive of the building and its modern equipment, was one that contained a great deal of interest.

An exchange produces this bit of wisdom: "If you think your town is a punk town, the first thing to do is to sit down for a while, before you say too much about it, and ponder the question as to whether you ever tried to do anything to make it better."

In this country according to a compilation made by Dr. D. M. Marvin economist to the Royal Bank of Canada, there are 2,252,729 households. The newspaper circulation is 2,246,361, or almost one for every household. The magazine circulation is 1,226,839, which is a shade more than one for every two households. There are 1,059,101 radio owners, who represent less than one-half of the householders who take newspapers.—Charlottetown Guardian.

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I think it is important for the rural newspapers of this country to be sure of facts before casting aspersions upon people in business.

I think there is a tendency to follow any city newspaper opinion on matters affecting economic welfare and business interests. There is too, a tendency to take at face value the allegations of politicians.

One suggestion I have to make is that in the interests of good citizenship, good administration and good business that the rural weekly newspapers, before passing judgment upon people who may be publicly attacked, or alleged to be guilty of impropriety, should ascertain the facts more completely than seems to have been often done in the past.

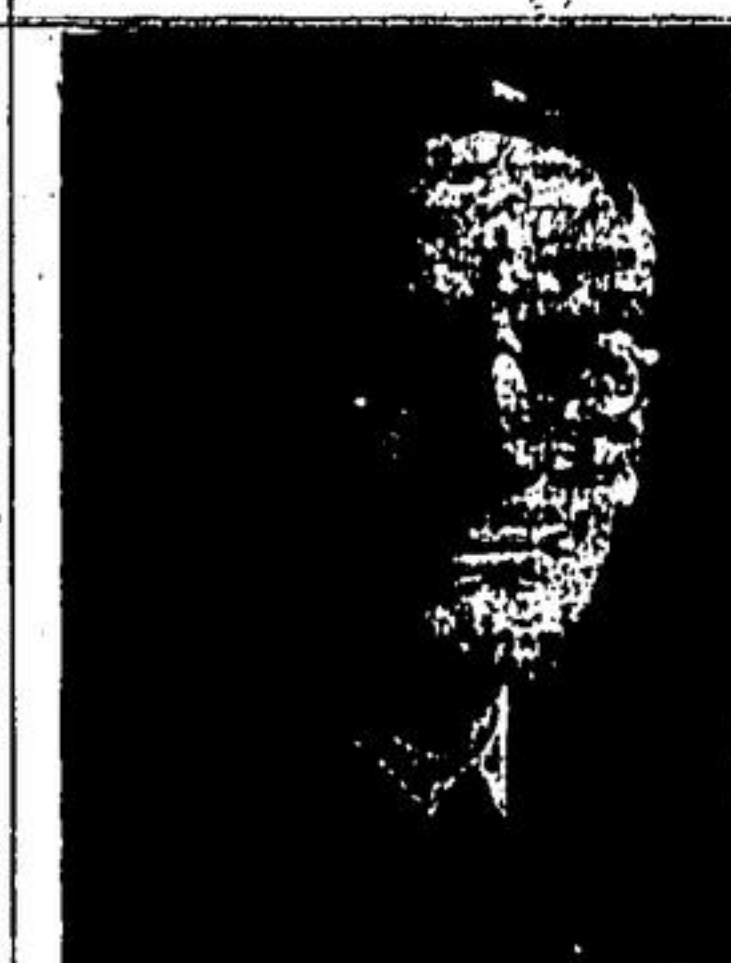
I believe there is, too, general disposition to discredit people of affairs, and to assume that business of size and people of tax-paying capacity and those responsible for the employment of considerable staffs should be made the object of unreasonable legislation, restrictions and impositions.

Perhaps I may illustrate this by giving you some figures of our own experience in taxation and imposts.

In 1931, when we sold more goods than in any year since, our total taxation and imposts were \$2,254,000. In 1937 this total had risen to \$3,880,000. The extra \$1,626,000 was, of course, paid largely by the consumer one way and another. These extra imposts can be traced in some measure to the political agitator.

It is most unlikely that property owners, persons of large affairs in business, large taxpayers, or large employers can hold any sort of creditable reputation in the face of this disposition.

Matters are different in the Old Country. The attitude there towards business is to foster it, to allow it to prosecute its legitimate aims and service, and



C. L. BURTON

at the least expense and with a minimum of legislative restriction. The consequence of this is that Great Britain today is probably showing the world, unless it be a little country such as Belgium, whose institutions and trade are even now freer than Great Britain.

I think the rural weekly newspapers in Canada have it in their hands, more than any other agency, to offset the agitator and the radical movements resulting in legislative restrictions and higher imposts of taxation. These unreasonable exactions are of doubtful effectiveness and destroy the confidence necessary to prosecute further development and wider employment.

C. L. BURTON,
President, The Robert Simpson
Company Limited.

YOUNG HISTORIANS

The senior boys of St. Peter's School at Bramley, in Yorkshire, England, have entered the publishing trade. They seem to be making a success of it.

About two years ago a collection of valuable old documents was handed over to the school, some on parchment, many with seals. It is these documents which have enabled the boys to compile a history of the locality from the 11th century to the present time, and as much of the information was unknown, even to students of local history, their book, The Lands of Bram, is of exceptional interest. The issue of 1,000 copies is nearly sold out, and the authors are considering the publication of a second edition of about 500 copies.

Encouraged by their success, these young historians are planning a new book dealing with Bramley industries.

OVER-FATIGUED

Children never behave nicely when they are over-tired or over excited. They may appear to be perfectly normal to us, as they don't yawn or look sleepy when they are worn out. On the contrary, their eyes are big and bright, their senses seem to be alert and quick. Sometimes they do their cutest tricks when they are at the end of their tether. It is always deceiving and seldom understood.

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Dafoes Stage Re-Union



A reunion of cousins was held when two well-known Dafoes met in Toronto recently, when Dr. A. R. Dafoe, physician to the Dionne Quinte, and John D. Dafoe, Right, of the Winnipeg Free Press, and member of the Royal Commission for Dominion-Provincial Relations, which is now sitting in Toronto, met at the Ontario Parliament Buildings.

Blossom Time on the Niagara Peninsula



The Niagara Peninsula presented a beautiful spectacle to thousands of visitors as millions of blossoms of delicate colors. This young lady was photographed as she admired the blossoms near Ormsby, Ontario, when she turned the Ontario fruit belt into a virtual fairy land.