



The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

The Scouts Showed How

Many a celebration and outing has been held in Acton Park, but three or four hundred Boy Scouts set an example that might well be emulated by grown-ups. They lived there for two days; did their cooking, slept and played there. Then when it was all over, every one of them was marshalled into order and the place cleaned up. It didn't take long, either. The notable part was that all the group participated in the clean-up.

There are a couple of points here for all. When everyone helps with the task, the job isn't big. Again the Boy Scouts have left a very pleasant after feeling and should they desire to come to Acton again, there will be no hesitancy about allowing use of the facilities. The clean-up has been the subject of much favorable comment. The Scouts have shown us how. We should never be too old to take a lesson.

Who Wants It?

Finance Minister Dunning has forecast a deficit of \$42,000,000 for the Canadian National Railways for the calendar year of 1938. In the light of other predictions, it will more likely be \$50,000,000. No one but a government could operate such an institution. Unification as suggested by the C.P.R. would save some \$6,000,000 per year, which seems a very small amount off the total. The operation is a major one and the unification scheme does not apparently offer the solution.

Any other business would long before have been forced into bankruptcy. But governments can stave off the final day. The income tax, the excise tax, and other taxes can be inaugurated to meet payments on the losing concern. That deficit is being paid by the people in tax levies, visible and invisible. It's a lot of money to pay for the privilege of owning anything. Perhaps it would be better to sell and take the complete loss. Deficits are increasing rather than decreasing. Who wants a railroad?

Another Reason Why Small Towns Remain Small

A works program involving the expenditure of \$40,000,000 was presented last week to the House of Commons by Labor Minister Rogers. The wisdom, or otherwise of this pump-priming method of recovery is not the subject we wish at the moment to discuss. It is, however, noted that part of this amount will be a low-cost and low-rental housing scheme for the large cities and towns.

Just why this opportunity should be conferred to only the larger centres is the part to which we object. Most everyone seems to agree, particularly when addressing small communities and the rural area, that the ideal place for family rearing and living is the smaller community. Relief problems have been more difficult to handle and more costly in the thickly populated centres.

In the light of past experience, is it advisable to confine the plan of low-rental housing to the large centres? Would it not be better to build up the smaller communities and encourage folk to live there where conditions are so much better for living? But it does seem that the most priming is done, not where the best results are obtained, often, but where the most votes are likely to be influenced. Why not encourage building where people could have a little land with the building and utilize spare time in gardening? It isn't that Canada hasn't plenty of land available. Big cities will get bigger, and the rural communities smaller with such government encouragement.

Ford's Wise Counsel

Henry Ford has some good advice for effecting a restoration of prosperity. It concerns chiefly a changed philosophy of life and attitude towards money on the part of many people. Here is the gist of certain remarks he made for publication the other day: "People must wake up and go to work. Too many people try to live off money. Money isn't wealth. It's just a token of wealth. We must create wealth and we must do it by doing something. People should be their own leaders. Too many people are half asleep. They're looking for security instead of making it themselves. And so they are easily fooled by their leaders."

The noted Detroit motor car magnate also has some advice for those engaged in industrial pursuits: "There's plenty to be done in industry and it ought to be done now. Forty years ago people could not foresee all the work which the invention and manufacture of automobiles was to bring. Now it's the same with other things. Everything, railroads, manufacturing, farming, should be overhauled and improved." Henry Ford has been the outstanding genius of this century in the way of devising new methods for utilizing the products of field, mine and forest. Agriculture owes him a tremendous debt for developing new uses for its produce by industrial plants. He has also led the way in decentralization of industry. He appreciates that only by the restoration of vitality and progress to the smaller centres throughout America can any real measure of prosperity and stabilization be achieved. Many present-day political leaders in the United States and Canada could profit by heeding Ford's advice.

Why "Magna Carta" Week

Perhaps many have wondered after the announcement last week just why Magna Carta Week is being observed. The objects of this observance are given fully in an organization letter sent out by the Canadian Legion. The object of Magna Carta Week is to remind us of the advantages of the system of government we enjoy.

1. It is democratic. No doubt, democratic government has often grave defects; and other kinds of government, such as dictatorships, may seem sometimes more efficient. But democracy has at least this to be said for it, that it enables the majority of the people of a country to change by their ballots conditions they do not like. Under a dictatorship this can only be done by bullets. How would you like to have bullets substituted for ballots?

2. It is based on the rule of law. Not even the King of Great Britain or the president of the United States, or the governor-general of Canada is above the law; and in Canada every officer of government, from the Prime Minister down to the humblest civil servant or police constable, is liable in the courts if he breaks the law. But a dictator is always above the law. His will is law. How would you like to be subject to the whims of a lawless ruler?

3. It is based on individual liberty. This does not mean liberty to say or do what one likes, but liberty to say or do only what one likes within the law. It means, however, what are known as "freedom of speech," "freedom of assembly," and "freedom of the press". It means that the state exists for the individual, and not that the individual exists for the state. How would you like to be a slave of the state?

4. It is characterized by freedom from arbitrary arrest and from imprisonment without trial. This has long been a feature of the British system of justice, with its Habeas Corpus Acts. It has never been a feature of dictatorships. How would you like to be arrested without any charge being made against you, and kept in jail indefinitely, without any recourse to justice?

5. It is based on religious toleration. In all the English-speaking countries there is the fullest religious freedom. That is not always true in countries under a dictatorship; nor is it likely to be true. How would you like to be persecuted for your religious beliefs?

It is because we have inherited from the Mother Country not only the English language and literature, but also the British way of doing things, that we should celebrate "Magna Carta" Week.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The twenty-third of May was rather miserable holiday weather. But those who celebrated the twenty-fourth found it more congenial.

In spite of the fact that the colors on the motor license plates are so objectionable, 61,000 more have been issued this year than in the same period last year.

Between three and four hundred Scouts camping in Acton Park over the week-end considered it one of the finest places they had ever had to hold a jamboree.

Weekly newspaper men of Ontario and Quebec will visit Timmins and Kirkland Lake and view the mining operations when they meet in convention in June.

Sales of new motor vehicles in Canada during 1937 totalled 114,441, valued at \$149,170,527, compared with 113,314 units, valued at \$117,582,796 in 1936, representing a gain of 27.5 per cent. in number and 26.9 per cent. in retail value.

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

It is very flattering to have a Canadian Weekly Newspaper editor like yourself and one who has such a strong influence in his own community, ask me the question set forth in your letter. The question itself, however, would suggest that you are very much more an idealist than I could ever hope to be. I have long ago given up the idea that I have been endowed with any divine mission to reform the world. I doubt very much whether or not any man can do very much to make his community "a better place in which to live and work" except insofar as he can do a thoughtful, honest, conscientious and able job in the place in which Providence has placed him.

If this formula holds good for the weekly newspaper editor then he cannot possibly do better than to make his paper a good weekly paper. Now, whether one is merchandising a newspaper or an automobile, one does not get very far by trying to make one's public take something they do not want. In other words, no matter how high or progressive our ideas may be about the kind of merchandise people ought to want, we would very quickly go out of business unless we actually give them what they do want. Of course all people do not want the same things and the individual or group wants different things at different times and in different moods. This gives us a wide range of choice in satisfying the idealistic side of our own natures. We can cater to either the higher or lower ranges of our customers' desires.

Now, no matter how ignorant he may be of the actual job of publishing, every advertising man at some time or other has formulated what he would do if he were publishing a newspaper. I am no exception to the rule. Here is my own dream.

If I were publishing a weekly newspaper, I would try to make it reflect all the joys, sorrows, desires, griefs, ambitions and happinesses of the people of my own town—of all grades and kinds of people in my own town. I would have no pretensions. The local man of wealth would be no more interesting to me than the family in the clapboard shack. I would follow the careers of all of them with a detached but loving interest. I would take no part in any quarrel or dispute, political or otherwise, but would present both sides of every controversy. This, however, would not prevent me from sitting in my high editorial seat and expressing my own opinion about current events. In fact I would be very emphatic about expressing my own opinion but in the editor's column only—not in the news columns and not by "coloring" the news. I would, in my column, put the Prime Minister on the back when I thought he had done well, and kick him in the pants when I thought he had done badly; and the same for every public character, group or movement. I would be very careful to avoid any bias in heading or in reporting of events. I believe that the partisan newspaper is very rapidly going out of date and that newspapers are coming to decrease and obtain the confidence of the public in proportion to their impartiality in presenting the news.

VISITORS TO NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA EXCEEDED MILLION FOR FIRST TIME

Canada's National Parks hit a new high in popularity during the fiscal year 1937-38, when for the first time the number of visitors exceeded one million. Figures just released by the Department of Mines and Resources reveal that visitors to the National Parks during the period April 1st, 1937, to March 31st, 1938, totalled 1,008,600, compared with 908,161 in the preceding fiscal year an increase of 100,529, or 11 per cent. Motor tourists constituted approximately 96 per cent. of the total number accounting for 974,059, while rail traffic is estimated at 34,531.

Substantial gains in registrations were made at Banff, Elk Island and Jasper National Parks in Alberta, and at Kootenay National Park in British Columbia. Traffic in Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba reached an all-time high with 117,253 visitors, and a heavy increase was also reported at Prince Albert National Park in Saskatchewan, Point Pelee National Park in Ontario, located within an hour's ride of Windsor and Detroit, received the greatest number of visitors, 206,338 being recorded. Estimated traffic to Canada's new Maritime parks was, Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Nova Scotia, 20,000; and Prince Edward Island National Park, 2,500.

The National Parks of Canada are performing an important national service in providing remarkable facilities for outdoor life and recreation. Twenty in number, they include a total area of 12,525 square miles. Originally established to preserve the landscape in its primal state and to conserve wild life, these great natural playgrounds now rank among the outstanding tourist attractions of the Dominion, where thousands of Canadians and their guests from other lands enjoy vacations in beautiful surroundings. Their growth in popularity has been phenomenal, no doubt influenced by their easy accessibility by highway and rail, and the provision of popular facilities for accommodation, ranging from roadside camp to palatial hotel, as well as the growing realization by the public that an annual change of environment improves health and increases efficiency.



A. M. MILLER

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an observer, arbiter, general adon and friend of everybody. My ideal in physical equipment would be to own my own little engraving shop and to fund my paper as far as possible with pictures of the people and the events of my own constituency. A small newspaper which tries to ape the metropolitan daily is fighting a losing battle. The small newspaper, however, which is weaving itself into the life of its own

community is building a citadel which nothing can overthrow. These are my thoughts—they are possibly quite foolish and impractical but if they are of any use to you I shall be happy. A. M. MILLER, Director of Advertising, Chrysler Corporation of Canada Limited, Windsor, Ontario.

TELEPHONE TALKS IN THE WATSON FAMILY



"We're so glad you're feeling better, Mother!"

That LONG DISTANCE Habit is Catching!

The Watson youngsters are not merely playing telephone—they are playing Long Distance; for Long Distance is a habit with the Watson family—an inexpensive habit that saves anxiety and helps keep the family together. Let the telephone extend your horizon beyond your immediate neighbourhood. Let it keep you in touch with faraway relatives and friends—the cost is surprisingly small.



Reductions in telephone rates—local and long distance—in 1937, '36 and '37 have effected a saving to telephone users in Ontario and Quebec of nearly one million dollars yearly.

Win Scholarships in Musical Competition



Winning first prize for original musical composition in a contest held by the Canadian Performing Right Society, Eldon Rathburn, Left, 21, of St. John, N.B., will receive a scholarship covering a year's tuition and maintenance at the Toronto Conservatory of Music, from Lord Tweeddale. Second place in the com-

petition was won by Leonard Basham, Right, 20, of Vancouver, B.C. Clermont Peppin, Centre, 11-year-old French-Canadian boy from County Beauce, Quebec, was awarded a special juvenile prize to encourage him in following his musical education.

Hitler Views Might of Italian Naval Forces



Down Rome's streets, filled with cheering thousands, the greatest show of pomp and glory of the modern age, Chancellor Hitler and Premier Mussolini are shown travelling in the same car during the German dictator's visit to Rome. Hitler was given an opportunity to witness Italy's naval strength, when the

combined fleets of the Italian navy put on a demonstration for the visiting Reichsmarschall in the Bay of Naples. Bottom: The white smoke arising from the warships is caused by the guns firing a thundering salute to the two dictators.