



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor

EDITORIAL

Youth Problems

On Monday two young lads were arrested on a vagrancy charge near Acton. They hailed from the city and from their actions it would appear they had been driving a stolen car, which was ditched just outside of Acton. That is the charge they will likely face in court. They were under twenty.

At Dunbarton, the same day, two more youths, sixteen and fifteen years old, drove a stolen car and collided with another machine, wrecking both cars. These are just everyday occurrences. Certainly we have a youth problem. But we wonder often times if the "youth problem" is not a misnomer. Is it not a home problem?—Stealing cars and going for rides at the expense of someone else is a misconduct that doesn't show up the youth of the country to much advantage. But it does exhibit a lack of discipline. If the same thought and energy of these youths had been diverted into a useful channel it would have received and merited a better reward. Such conduct deserves a good spanking. In many an instance the boys stealing cars should never have been able to drive cars. The youth problem cannot be solved by mass methods. But proper training and companionship in the homes will develop the right type and individual initiative will bring out the right character. There used to be some lines in the school books in our day, that ran "Are riches worth the getting? They must be bravely sought, With wishes and with fretting The boon cannot be bought."

But while we do hear of these wayward youths often these days in the news that are creating a problem for themselves and friends and relatives, we often overlook that big majority of Canadian youth who are by preparation and attention to duty, making good. They do not make the headlines, perhaps, but they are the backbone of any country and Canada can truly be thankful that they are so predominant in this land. We in the small communities think we have an edge on the cities in this respect.

Tackling Canada's Problems.

We have listened with a great deal of interest to Mr. George McCullagh's radio addresses. Of course we most keenly anticipated the last one. Like thousands of others we were well aware of the serious predicament in which public affairs have been allowed to drift. Knowing something of Mr. McCullagh's personality we felt he would not repeat all these things and arouse interest without having some sort of a tentative plan to attack the problems. Therefore we were interested to learn of the "Leadership League." Without a doubt Mr. McCullagh is, through The Globe and Mail, giving leadership and he says all power to him. He enunciated principles which are not difficult to subscribe to by any citizen with interests of Canada at heart.

The name may be well-chosen, but if leadership is to be secured it will require workers in the cause, as well as leaders. Merely signing and returning the coupons sent out will not ensure success of the "Leadership League." If it is to be a success it will require the earnest thought and a pledge to give considerable study to the problems when the membership is taken out in the League. It will require more than merely filling in the coupons. But it is a worthy cause and deserving of support.

We have been receiving literature for some time from another organization which also is giving much attention to a big Canadian problem. It is known as "The Citizens Group for Railway Action." It, too, is doing a good work on this big problem. There are many forces at work giving attention to Canada's

problems. Perhaps it would be well if we concentrated real seriously on these home problems, first, rather than world problems. It is possible too that if Canada's problems were solved, the rest of the world could deal with their own affairs. At any rate Canada needs the aid of all Canadians in solving the problems now confronting us. It makes no difference under what name they are solved, but it is a very healthful sign that the problems are being attacked seriously.

We Talk in Millions

There are not many business institutions that can run on the same basis as we run our governments. It is reported from Ottawa during the week that in spite of revenues being down, expenditures are up. And in the usual big way, too. Speaking of our country's affairs, we do not deal in thousands but talk in terms of millions. Total ordinary revenue of the Dominion Government in the first ten months of the current fiscal year was \$427,607,805, compared with \$436,269,720 in the corresponding period of the 1937-38 fiscal year, according to figures released by the Comptroller of the Treasury. Special receipts brought the grand total to \$428,061,647 compared with \$438,028,874. Just about ten millions difference.

Total ordinary expenditures of the Dominion Government during the first ten months was \$327,545,491 compared with \$320,682,624. Other expenditures, with totals for the corresponding ten months of the previous fiscal year in brackets: Capital expenditure, \$4,738,453 (\$3,746,403); expenditures on relief grants-in-aid, relief works, and drought relief, \$32,254,014 (\$46,738,559); and expenditures on government-owned enterprises, \$51,135,717 (\$41,905,893).

Among items in ordinary expenditures, national defense increased to \$25,634,480 in the first ten months of the present fiscal year from \$20,619,021 in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. Expenditures on subsidies in movement of coal dropped to \$1,240,089 from \$1,901,836, while interest on public debt fell to \$106,611,485 from \$111,809,170.

Checking the Gossiper

"We read the other day where an 'anti-gossip' squad has been organized at Ipswich, England, by the vicar of Haughey. The volunteers belonging to the squad will undertake to 'hound' the offenders by making them prove their words or withdraw them. This would be a splendid idea if one could gather a group for the purpose who themselves 'could cast the first stone.' Some of the worst gossipers are also very kind-hearted individuals who would share anything they have with others, but they are too often generous in sharing their conversation to the detriment of another's reputation. Gossip is often the result of one's desire to be popular by telling entertaining little tid-bits about people or things which they think might happen or have happened, but things which they could not prove. If each individual made sure he or she could prove the statement before making it, there would be no need for an anti-gossip squad.—The Bowmanville Statesman.

EDITORIAL NOTES

February has certainly provided a lot of quick changes in the weather. In many respects it has resembled what might be expected of March.

Canada's total railway mileage of 42,270 miles is exceeded only by that of the United States, 238,539; Russia, 50,725; and India, including Burma, 43,021.

Canada's balance of trade in December, 1938, was favorable to the extent of 26,166,238, compared with \$30,771,519 in November; and \$25,360,960 in December, 1937.

While a bit unique, the advertising put out prior to the hockey game on Monday night seemed to have the desired result of packing in the biggest crowd of the season at the Arena.

In the talk of world problems, Provincial and Dominion problems, it will be well to remember that your own municipality has problems too that require the serious attention of every citizen.

Political practises no doubt are very much in need of improvement to-day, but if you really want to appreciate the present day get some of the old-timers to tell of the days of say forty or fifty years ago.

Even Valentine Day is improving. February 14th has come and gone and we didn't see in evidence anywhere any of those old-fashioned Valentines that had more than a cent's worth of mean thought put onto them.

Canal traffic through the Welland Ship Canal established a new high record during the 1938 season of navigation when the movement of freight aggregated 12,633,093 tons compared with the previous high record of 11,747,950 in 1937.

We are greatly flattered this week. THE FREE PRESS Editor has been credited with contributing to Ferguson winning a hockey game from Acton. We have been accused of a lot of things in our day, but never before with being a deciding factor either way in a hockey match. It's nice to know we're not a has-been, but really it's altogether too embarrassing. We'll tell you what was really the cause of Acton losing, after the play-offs, Mr. Templin.

THE OLD MAN OF THE BIG CLOCK TOWER



WE CALL THIS LIFE

We call this life, that is but life's beginning. We call this life, this little speck of fears, But do you think that God planned this For these few years?

If this were all, then why these days above us? The undiscovered moon, the planets bright, If not to lead us to some greater kingdom, Some fairer light?

We work, we win, we earn some golden coin, We buy bright silks, a novelty, a ring, But something else, some lovely secret in us, Does he not bring?

Call it the soul, it does not need earth's bounty, It shows us beauty, teaches us to pray, Makes us believe that death is but an opening Into the day.

And when at last we falter at our life's task, And bodies fail that soul may win the prize, Then the kind God who takes one small world from us, Opens His skies.

As I promised you last week, this brings me to my story of the old Methodist Church, which gave the important street upon which it stood the name by which it has always been known.

Here is where the old record book, respecting the founding of Methodism in Acton, comes in, and I intend following the entries therein found, because, being written about the time the various events occurred, or very few years thereafter, they are more correct than the memories of any of the old residents could possibly be. Anyway, we have no old residents of Acton whose memories go back as far as the early entries in this old book.

The story of the visit of the first preachers, and the early days of the Methodist people in Acton, is no doubt very nearly parallel with that of numbers of other places throughout Canada. Here, as in other communities, the pioneer preacher was a Methodist circuit rider. They came before Acton had a name, in fact the name by which this settlement was first known was that of a family of Methodist preachers—Adams Adams, named by Revs. Ezra and Zenas Adams, who were the first ministers to visit this section. As far as can be ascertained the first sermon preached here was by Rev. Ezra Adams, and the place of meeting was a log building on the second line, somewhere between the present site of Acton and the Brick Church. That was in the spring of 1828, and the text upon which Rev. Mr. Adams preached this first sermon was Romans 7:24, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

Not a very exciting theme, surely. But these were the days when the early Methodist preachers believed and preached a very vigorous gospel. About this date the Adams family purchased the property upon which the older portion of the Corporation of Acton now stands. Their principal attraction to this locality was the mill privilege, which they first utilized, and which has ever since then been in commission. The first home was erected about where the Cook residence—for many years the Nicklin homestead—now stands.

You may wonder why I am wandering all over town and into Fairy Lake to get to Church Street, and the old Methodist Church, but this is all leading up to the "log building"—some of the theologians of to-day would say. Naturally, being preachers, the Adamses commenced religious services for the community as soon as they got settled in their new home. Services were held for a time in the kitchen of their log house, and, as the congregation increased, the large woodshed adjoining was also utilized.

Both Ezra and Zenas Adams were energetic workers and to the safe and sane foundations they laid in righteous principles in those early days much credit is due for the sound religious sentiment which has so largely prevailed in this community through the years since intervening. They were faithful and did their work well. Both passed away in Acton in due time and their mortal remains were laid to rest many years ago in the first cemetery on Main Street. About six or seven years after the Adams brothers settled here and commenced their religious efforts, as they pursued their daily toil of clearing the land for farming and building and operating their mill on Mill Street, Acton was made a regular appointment on a Methodist circuit. This was during the ministry of Rev. Lewis Weston, who was the pastor of Nelson circuit. This place was attached to Nelson circuit, which then embraced the whole of the present county of Halton, and several sections in adjoining counties. It took the ministers in charge two weeks, preaching every day of the week, to cover the circuit. This will not be wondered at when the following and intervening places, were upon the circuit plan: Hannahville, Wellington Square, Dundas Street, Palermo, Bloomfield, Bowes, Milton, Hornby, Cook's (near Stewarttown)—Georgetown, then on the seventh line, Ballinford, Acton and Ebenezer, in Nassagaweya. The preacher's plan for this vicinity was as follows: Hornby, Sunday morning; Cook's in the afternoon; Georgetown in the evening; Ballinford on Monday evening; Acton on Tuesday evening; Ebenezer on Wednesday evening, and so on.

The quarterly communion meetings were held at Palermo or Hannahville in those days, and members went from here to attend. Mrs. Michael Farmer, mother of the late John Farmer, and grandmother of Nelson Farmer Moore, one of our esteemed citizens, repeatedly rode the twenty miles to those places on horseback, to be present at these revered services. Acton had no Methodist Church in those days. For years the example of the Adamses in providing accommodations in their homes for preaching services was followed by others of the early settlers. When the first schoolhouse was built in Acton, however, it was utilized for religious services. This old building is still standing and is in excellent repair. It is on Main Street, and is the home of Mr. Creweon McLaughlin. Among the preachers who ministered to the early residents in this building were such prominent ministers of the church of that day as: Revs. James Norris, Dr. Schuyler Stewart, Ezra Ripston, John Law, Matthew Whiting, Hamilton Biggar, Thomas Casford, Luther O. Rice, and William Willoughby.

During the ministry of Rev. Wm. Willoughby, a revival of widespread influence took place and the numbers brought in rendered the little schoolhouse too small to accommodate the congregation. He was assisted in these services by Dr. W. S. Griffin, then a probationer at Guelph with Rev. James Spencer, the pastor of Norfolk Street. After these special services it was found that larger premises were imperative and steps were taken to build a church. The site chosen was a lot in the newly-subdivided farm of Rufus Adams. It was then that the new street was named Church Street.

The date of Acton's elevation to the importance of a Methodist appointment for regular Sunday preaching services is July, 1844, and from this date the anniversaries of the Methodist Church have been computed. At this date Georgetown was made the head of a circuit, with Acton as one of its principal outside appointments. This was during the ministry of the late Luther O. Rice, who died at the home of one of his children at Hobart Lake, Ind., in 1891, full of years and with a great record of usefulness and success.

It took several years to get the new church erected. It was built largely by "bees," and it was not completed until early in the new year of 1852. The official opening took place in February of that year.

There, I've got up to the time of the building of the little white church, which stood at the corner of Church and John Streets for between fifty or sixty years.

Next week I'll tell you something from these old records of the building of the church: the first Trustees and other officials; the opening services, and the

NEW HIGH IN COPPER PRODUCTION

Canada's production of copper established a new high in 1938 with an output of 585,521,538 pounds of the metal, which compares with 530,028,615 pounds in 1937. Owing to the lower price of copper, however, the value of the production in 1938, which amounted to \$57,876,000, was 16 per cent. below that of 1937. Leading copper producing province of the Dominion is Ontario, the source of its output being the copper-nickel ores of the Sudbury district. Noranda is the outstanding producer in Quebec, other important contributors to the output in the same district being the Aldermac, Walle-Amulet, and Normetal mines. At Esposito, Quebec, Canada's oldest copper mine was operated continuously during the year by the Consolidated Copper and Sulphur Company, Limited.

As a result of careful geological study and a program of diamond drilling, a deposit reported to contain upwards of three and a quarter million tons of copper-zinc ore was disclosed at the Walle-Amulet property. The ore occurs at a depth of about 1,000 feet below the surface. Copper concentrates from the Walle-Amulet and Normetal mines are being smelted at Noranda, while those from Aldermac and Consolidated Copper and Sulphur Company are being exported. A plant is now being erected at Aldermac to produce elemental sulphur from pyritic concentrates, from which a pure iron oxide will be obtained as a by-product.

Smelter production by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, Limited, in Manitoba, from ores of the Flin Flon and Sherritt Gordon mines was considerably greater than in 1937. Production from Britannia mine on Howe Sound in British Columbia showed little change. While the output from the Granby property at Copper Mountain, in the same province, was greater than in 1937, in which year there were no shipments from the property for several months.

BOOKS UNLIKELY TO CARRY DISEASE

Dr. Arthur H. Bryan, of Baltimore, Md., made laboratory tests on books recently used by students and found few germs of any kind; those present were mostly of a harmless variety.

Communicable diseases are transmitted mainly by the person and not by objects. Books that have been handled recently by patients suffering from smallpox, scarlet fever or diphtheria may transmit such infections to susceptible persons. There is scant likelihood that common colds, tuberculosis or typhoid fever would be transmitted by library books or magazines. Any viruses or bacteria present on books soon die because of the absence of moisture, heat and the food necessary to their continued existence. In most instances disease-carrying germs soon cease to live outside the body.

Some years ago it was the custom that books on premises under quarantine were required to be disinfected by means of the fumes of formaldehyde. It is generally believed that the exposure of books to sunlight and fresh air is equally effective. In most contagious disease hospitals, books that are used by a patient are destroyed when the patient leaves the hospital. In no case is the patient allowed to take the books with him from the hospital.

The hands are one of the commonest agencies in transmitting infections. Consequently when a book is read the hands should be clean. Printer's ink is illuminating in a thousand ways; it has no antiseptic or inhibitory action on viruses or bacteria.

ALL WRONG

After the address the lecturer asked a member of the audience how he liked it. "I had just three faults to find with it," stated the listener. "And what were they?" "First it was read. Second, it wasn't well read. And, third, it wasn't worth reading!"

preachers who ministered to the congregation there. So good-night.

The Old Man

SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK By R. J. SCOTT. Includes illustrations of a map, a globe, and a person climbing a tree. Text describes a maple leaf prize and a bamboo rope.

Business Directory

- MEDICAL
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TIME TABLES CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS. AT ACTON: Going East, Daily, except Sunday, 6:57 a.m.; Daily, except Sunday, 9:54 a.m.; Daily, except Sunday, 6:26 p.m.; Sunday only, 8:18 p.m.

GRAY COACH LINES. COACHES LEAVE ACTON: EASTBOUND (To Toronto), a 6:57 a.m., 4:21 p.m.; 9:11 a.m., 6:31 p.m.; 11:31 a.m., 8:46 p.m.; c 2:06 p.m.; WESTBOUND (To London), 9:57 a.m., 5:03 p.m.; 11:38 a.m., 7:18 p.m.; 2:23 p.m., 8:18 p.m.; ex 3:13 p.m., dx 1:25 p.m., ex 12:06 a.m.