

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1939

AN KNEESIER WAY

In grandmother's days, with their old-fashioned ways, women scrubbed with a pail and a brush. They got down on their knees, with no pad to appear. The result was arthritis and slush. Now the job's modernized, every method's devised. To allow of a standing-up pose while milady picks dust, chicken bones or a crust. From the floor without wrinkling her nose. With an anti-stoop switch she controls power and pluck. Of the radio, vacuum or "frig." She can stop to relax, to apply facial packs. And has time off for parties and bridge. She gets more than the drags since she's shown she has legs. That are no longer drudgery dulled. To get right to the point, it's a better class joint. Since the knobs on the knees were annulled. Donald McLeod.

Twenty Years Ago

From the Issue of The Free Press of Thursday, February 27th, 1919

Mr. N. H. Garden has purchased the property of Mrs. Thomas Gamble, Church Street.

Georgetown and Erin Hockey Teams played a game at Victoria rink. The space devoted to spectators was taxed to capacity. The score was 3-7. Another interesting game was when Acton and Beaufort's 2 Co's Toronto team met. The game resulted in a victory for Acton, with a score of 6-2.

A rousing civic welcome was given to eight returned soldier heroes who had returned home recently.

A meeting of citizens of Acton was held to decide about providing a memorial in honor of our soldier heroes. A committee of Rev. J. C. Wilson, H. P. Moore, W. H. Stewart, Mrs. Geo. Havill and Mrs. R. M. McDonald were appointed to proceed with plans and arrange a Citizens' Committee.

Mr. Fred Denny, of Erin, has purchased from Mr. W. R. E. Blair, his residence, at the corner of Bower Avenue and John Street, and will remove there shortly.

BORN

SPENCE—At Albatross Landing, Alta., on Wednesday, February 12th, 1919, to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Spence, a daughter.

DIED

HILDEBRAND—At his home, Church Street, Acton, on February 25th, 1919, Conrad Hildebrand, in his 70th year. STAUFFER—At her home, in Acton, on Sunday, February 23rd, 1919, Sophonia Jane Estes, wife of the late Abram Stauffer, in her 71st year.

THE WORK OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

With nearly one thousand adoptions completed in 1938, Ontario's Department of Public Welfare, which supervises the work of Children's Aid Societies, finds itself in the somewhat unusual position of having a greater demand for adoptable children than can be filled by the existing number eligible for adoption.

"It is a peculiar situation," states Hon. Eric Cross, Minister of Public Welfare and Municipal Affairs. "A few years ago children of adoption age constituted a real problem for our Societies. Today, we have not sufficient children to take care of the demand."

The reason was ascribed by the Minister to the constantly increasing desire of childless couples to have children in their home. In 1936 a peak was reached when 934 children were formally placed in adoption in this Province, this figure comparing with 784 the preceding year. Indications are that the 1938 total will be exceeded during the current twelve-month, although such an increase, of course, depends entirely upon the number of children available.

The matter of placements in adoption homes, Mr. Cross points out, is one that receives the careful consideration of the Department, the Societies and their superintendents. As soon as a request for a child for adoption is received—and if a youngster is available—a careful inspection of the prospective foster parents is made with a view to ascertaining all the circumstances surrounding such an adoption. After the child has been placed, regular visits of inspection are made during a two-year "probation" period in order to ensure that the child is receiving proper care and training. Only after this two-year period has been completed do the adoptions actually become effective.

The demand for children for adoption is principally for those of from three months to four years in age, although nearly all ages up to 40 years appear in the Department's adoption records.

"It has been found," observes Mr. Cross, "that adoption parents leave little to be desired in caring properly for their foster-children and the affection with which they regard them. They take a pride and an interest in their child as if it were their own."

FROZEN FRUITS INCREASE

The means of processing frozen fruits in Canada is now well established, with several factories in active operation. The pack of frozen fruit for remanufacturing purposes in 1938 was 9,900,000 pounds. Blueberries were frozen in considerable quantities and shipped in cartons, principally to the United States. Total shipments in the six months, April to September, 1939, amounted to 8,010,000 pounds. With the establishment of suitable equipment for handling frozen fruit in retail stores during the coming year, it is expected that sales will be considerably increased.

THE OLD MAN OF THE BIG CLOCK TOWER



TRIBUTE TO UNSUNG HEROES

I sing of men and women who fought for hopeless causes. Who labored and were weary but kept their faith complete. Who, after days of toiling, would pray while others slumbered. But saw their banners rent at last to ribbons at their feet.

I sing of men and women who hewed the path of progress. Through jungle growth of darkness to day's effulgent beam. But who were called from labor before their task was finished. And left to other men the rich fulfillment of their dream.

I sing of men and women for whom no shafts of marble rise against oblivion, nor tablets tell their fame. Who reap where they have sown hymn their high endeavor. And marvel at their dauntless faith, and praise their deathless name.

Without any preliminaries I'll get right along on my recollections on Church Street this week.

The first Methodist Church in this section was built on the lot in the new subdivision of Rufus Adams' farm as part of the town plot for the village of Acton, at the corner of Church and John Streets, in 1851. As I said before, Church Street received its name from the location of the church on this site. John Street was named for one of the members of the Adams family, as were a number of other streets in this original survey.

The church was built by the early settlers, and largely "by their own hands," the old record book reveals. The timbers for it was built on barn construction plans, and the trees for the lumber and shingles were given free of charge to the band of men who were chosen trustees, by settlers interested in the erection of the new place of worship. This timber was the best of clear pine, selected from the famous pine forests of Quebec, which the remaining old residents so well remember. The numerous stump fences on the second, third and fourth lines and throughout the Scotch Block, bear mute but eloquent evidence of the splendid quality of pine which covered many of Quebec farms, eighty years ago. These farms are now among the most productive for mixed farming crops in the province.

The work of getting out the timber, lumber and shingles for the new church was largely done by "bees." The late Angus Kennedy, who was a famous carpenter here in the early days, and who afterward built a saw mill on the farm on the check line, now owned by Dr.

Beattie, brother of the President of the C.P.R., was given the contract for the carpenter work of the building. He was paid \$50 for his work. This, of course, did not include plastering, painting nor pews. In fact it was a year after the official opening of the church before the little congregation could afford the added expense of plaster and pews. When the church was opened for public worship it was seated with pine planks which had been sawn with an upright mooley saw in a water power mill which stood below the dam where the cement-spillway from Fairy Lake is now located. Fairy Lake was "The Big Pond," then and for a half century afterward.

The new church was opened in February, 1852. Rev. Joseph Mesmore was the minister in charge at that time, but he was not present at the opening services. The parsonage of the circuit was then at Stewarttown. One of the official members was entrusted with the duty of conferring with the minister at Stewarttown and arranging for the opening services. This official member was also a member of the Township Council, and was attending a meeting of the Council the Saturday afternoon before the opening. The Council session continued until a late hour and the official member proceeded from Stewarttown, over the rough February roads to his farm near Acton, and forgot all about the message entrusted to him for the preacher until he had reached home, put in his horse for the night, and got settled down beside the fireplace under the home roof-tree, and his ever-thoughtful wife reminded him of the church opening on the morning next. He was much abashed over his forgetfulness. It was too late to drive back to Stewarttown that night, and by the time he got down next morning Rev. Mr. Mesmore would be away on the road to some other appointment on the large circuit. You younger folks must remember there were no automobiles, nor telephones, and not even a telegraph line to Stewarttown in those days.

I thought first I wouldn't give away this forgotten official and councillor, but I guess I had better let it out after all. The incident will be a comfort to some of his present-day descendants who find themselves occasionally overcome by lapse of memory even in these days. Squire Alexander Brown it was, the first Sunday School Superintendent of the new church, who was the delinquent on this occasion.

Fortunately a local preacher of ability and reputation, whose home was in Guelph, was found available and preached at three o'clock in the afternoon, and Rev. Ezra Adams, one of the founders of the place, who was by this time superannuated and living at Drayton, preached at night. The new church was crowded, and all the people were thankful that this new place of Divine worship was now open and available for regular services.

On the following Monday evening one of the first of the popular old-time dances ever held in this section, took place. It was mostly coupled with general interest in the new church, brought out the countryside. One of the speakers at the evening was Rev. John I. Kerr, then stationed at Erin. I find that Mr. Kerr continued in the ministry for forty-six years, and died at the home of his son, Mr. W. H. Kerr, then editor of the Post, at Brussels, in 1888.

Among the visitors who attended the opening services of the new church were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Speight, of Markham Village, who drove the sixty miles to Acton, with a horse and buggy, to attend. They were especially interested because three of their sons, John, Samuel and Michael, had come here from Markham, and settled in business in Acton.

In 1853 the church was plastered by Thomas Perryman, Sr., and he was always proud of the good job he made of it. He was a member of the church. It is an interesting coincidence that his last home on earth was on the lot adjoining the one occupied by the old church. There he died, full of years, and rejoicing in his long connection with the church of God.

When the plastering was completed, new pews were put in and the interior painted. The pews were built and placed by Samuel Worden, another expert carpenter of the early days. Mr. Worden afterwards built the Baptist Church, of which he was a member.

The Trustees and leading members of the church were: Asa Hall, Alexander Brown, Sr., Thomas Moore, Sr., Oliver Lasby, Sr., John Speight, George Elliott, John Holt, Thomas Hoare, Thomas Perryman, and Benjamin and Edward Nicklin. All of them have passed away, most of them half a century ago. But nearly all of them still have descendants in the church here, who are active Christian workers and just as much in-

IN CHARGE OF MAILS?



When the King and Queen visit Canada this summer, Lieut.-Col. A. W. Pascoe, Above, of Moose Jaw, will be in charge of the mails on the royal train, it is unofficially reported.

interested in the advancement of the gospel as their parents were.

I guess that's far enough to go in this old church history this week. Next week I'll try to gather some incidents of interest concerning the church and the Sunday School, which have not been previously told. This certainly takes me back very vividly to those early days and brings up the faces and forms and clerical words and strong optimism of our fathers.

The Old Man

GAME REGULATIONS RESTRICT USE OF AIRCRAFT BY TRAPPERS

The use of aircraft in trapping operations in the Northwest Territories is restricted under the provisions of the Northwest Game Regulations, according to the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa. With the exception of the recently created Mackenzie Mountains Preserve, present regulations provide that aircraft may only be used by trappers as a means of transportation between the points of outfitting and the trapper's base camp. Every trapper using aircraft for transportation purposes is required to complete an affidavit setting out the location of his base camp and full particulars concerning his trapping operations. In the Mackenzie Mountains Preserve the use of airplane transportation in connection with trapping is prohibited.

The regulation of the use of aircraft by trappers is necessary to the welfare of the native population of the Territories, which depends to a large extent upon the game and fur-bearing animals for a livelihood. Until comparatively recent years many of the more remote parts of the North were virtually wild sanctuaries due to the fact that they were inaccessible by ordinary means of travel. Airplane transportation has made it possible for trappers, prospectors, tourists and others to reach these outlying regions, with the result that from time to time revision of the game regulations has been necessary to provide adequate protection for wild life. At present hunting and trapping in the Northwest Territories is practically restricted to natives and half-breeds, as licenses to other persons are issued only to qualified residents already holding hunting and trapping licenses.

One of the most recent measures to preserve wild life in the interests of the native population was the creation of the Mackenzie Mountains Preserve, an area of approximately 70,000 square miles. This region comprises the hunting grounds of many native families living along the Mackenzie and Laird Rivers, and includes a large part of the habitat of the marten, one of the North's most important fur bearers. The establishment of the Mackenzie Mountains Preserve brought the total area of game preserves set aside in the Northwest Territories for the exclusive use of the Indians, Eskimos and half-breeds up to approximately 584,000 square miles. In addition, the Northwest Territories has 25,225 square miles of parks and game sanctuaries.

STARTED EARLY

Fred and Ted were discussing a mutual friend. "He gave his girl up after two years' courtship," said Fred, "because he found she had a past." "Oh, what was that?" "She'd been drummed out of the 'Brownies' when she was seven."

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By WALLY BISHOP