



The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

Congratulations to Another Local Group

Excellence and splendid standing in another part of community activity come in for hearty congratulations this week in Acton. The pupils of Acton Public Schools have again made a splendid showing in the County Music Festival. They came home with a large share of the major awards for their effort of weeks and brought honor to Miss Hunt and Mrs. Gowdy and the school staff and Board and the community at large.

Notable achievement in this musical work is of course not a new thing for Acton. Attention of scholars and ability of those in charge has been shown on many previous occasions. But the success is none the less commendable. It means hours and weeks of steady training. Constant practice at many many times becomes monotonous, but the tenacity necessary to win has brought its reward in full measure.

Citizens generally offer hearty congratulations on the musical achievements of Acton School of the past week. They are proud of the honor you have brought to the community. Continue in the good work and it will likewise bring further rewards, individually and collectively. It is a worth-while training.

The Reliable Source

The Auditors' Reports, placed last week in the hands of the Municipal Clerk, gives every ratepayer an opportunity for securing authentic information regarding the financial standing of Acton. The volume is not large, but it is all inclusive in its scope.

A review shows that citizens have every reason for pride in their Municipality. Debtenture indebtedness is decreasing by from \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year and each year sees the retirement of some issues. The net debtenture debt now stands at \$116,139.46 and the longest term on any one issue is 1953.

The darkest side of the report is seen in the increase in tax arrears, this year of more than \$500 over last year. That the Council is fully conversant with this important matter is seen in the efforts used in collection and plans to meet taxes in more instalments next year. It is manifestly unfair to those citizens who do meet these obligations promptly that these amounts are not collected, but the difficulties are many and the penalties are such that failure to pay is rather expensive. With the amounts owing collected, Acton's financial position would indeed be bright.

Another feature that shows no improvement is the relief expenditure. Here again the cost in Acton is not high when compared with other municipalities. But the amount expended in this avenue is almost a \$1,000 more than for the year previously. These are the two darkest points in the report.

The other pages of the report show real progress and every page bespeaks good administration of the Council, Boards and Commissions in charge of Acton's affairs. Copies of the report are available while the supply lasts to ratepayers at no cost. Application should be made to Clerk Leatherland or THE FREE PRESS OFFICE for a copy. Children of course will not be given copies. If you would get first hand information regarding Acton, the Auditors' Report is the proper and reliable source.

Let's All Co-operate

On Saturday our King and Queen are scheduled to sail for a visit to Canada. Many who had never hoped to see Their Majesties will be given an opportunity to see them. Truly these are days of change.

ing times. Recent visits to cities where Their Majesties will make a visit indicate that the cities will make every effort to play the good neighbor and provide a space along the route for groups from adjacent communities. Plans for our own community are being formulated this week and perhaps definite announcement of these will be found in another column.

Whatever the plans may be, let us enter wholeheartedly into them and plan our decorating, etc., with the same loyalty as if our sovereign was to personally visit the community. We are assured the Royal train will pass through Acton, which is an honor every Canadian community will not have. To hundreds of other visitors who will stop in Acton during the Royal visit let us acclaim our welcome. Get out the decorations now.

An Opportunity Missed

The House of Commons missed another opportunity to prove to us that there vigorous debates take place on occasions of matters of national importance. We spent about half an hour in the gallery last Friday evening, and the proceedings were a continuation of the budget debate.

Mr. Fred J. Johnston, of Lake Centre, was speaking as we entered the gallery. Perhaps a quarter of the members were in their seats. We didn't get the drift of his speech as it took some few minutes to explain to Mrs. Dills the plan of the House. But we did learn that Mr. Thomas Reid, of New Westminster, thought the forty per cent. duty should be removed from Scotch kilts. Mr. Reid also desired that Japanese imitations of Indian souvenirs be excluded from competition with the genuine trinkets made by Canadian Indians. The Scotch and the Indians hadn't received this consideration in the budget.

As we looked over the gallery, we felt Mr. Reid was missing a glorious opportunity when he failed to include another class in his plea for more consideration. An impassioned plea for removal of sales, tax and other items close to the interests of weekly newspaper editors would have echoed across two Provinces at least. But Mr. Reid missed this opportunity and in broad Scotch stuck to the kilts. As we walked back to the hotel from Parliament Hill and got the Canadian breeze of late April, we further wondered who would want kilts in Canada anyway and doubted if even Mr. Reid would venture out for an evening stroll in Ottawa in this Scotch garb. Well somebody had to speak and we were grateful to Mr. Reid and the other gentlemen for maintaining the debate so that Mrs. Dills would have an opportunity of witnessing Canada's House of Commons in session.

No, we were not disappointed. It's never our good fortune to drop in on one of these warm debates that we read about.

But There Was Leadership

But what the House of Commons lacked was made up in other addresses we heard in Ottawa. Mr. Gratton-O'Leary, editor of the Ottawa Journal, spoke on "The Press and Freedom." We gathered a wider understanding of this freedom which all in a democracy enjoy and which is not limited to the press alone. We even viewed in a different light the House of Commons debate, which had little seeming interest, but exemplified at least freedom to discuss matters from any individual standpoint.

We listened to Sir Gerald Campbell, British High Commissioner to Canada, pack into every sentence a deep meaning and yet put over the thought in a manner that was entertaining. Hitler had yelled his message around the world that morning. Sir Gerald Campbell never raised his voice in his address. Britishers do not need to shout to be understood. It was the speaker's thought that the sound of Hitler's voice undoes anything that his propaganda has done. After all, Hitler was only one man speaking and he knew the whole world was listening in. "He can't help feeling important when he knows the world is listening to him," said the British Commissioner.

Sir Gerald Campbell is a speaker entirely different from the average. He speaks quite rapidly but distinctly. His training has given him an understanding of world affairs and he has a way of getting across his message that makes it most pleasant to follow. What the Parliamentary debates did not give were not lacking on our visit to Ottawa. Perhaps at another time we'll tell you more. But if ever any readers have the opportunity of hearing Sir Gerald Campbell, do not miss it. It's a rare treat at any time.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The season didn't end for the hockey boys last week. The feasting and the entertainment that is still being continued in their honor is certainly an important and enjoyable part of the season.

The changing to Daylight Saving Time was accomplished with a minimum of confusion. A few more years and it will even cease to be a contentious question.

Congratulations are in order to Editor A. V. Nolan, of the Stouffville Tribune, on being the first winner of the Joseph T. Clark Memorial Trophy for the best weekly newspaper in a community under 1,500 in population. And again to Editor George James, of the Bowmanville Statesman, in being the winner for the best editorial page.

The Sunday School Lesson

FOR SUNDAY, MAY 7th, 1939

Lesson Text: Acts 18: 1-11; 1 Cor. 2: 1-5. Exposition: I. Paul Conducting a Revival in a Jewish Synagogue in Corinth, 1-6.

From Athens, the city of culture, philosophy and politics, Paul went to Corinth, the city of commerce, architecture, wealth, luxury, and notorious immorality. "The city of vice far excellence in the Roman world." Here he first met Aquila and "his wife Priscilla," who became very important members of the Church of Christ (v. 26; Rom. 16: 3, 4; 1 Cor. 16: 19; 2 Tim. 4: 19). It was apparently an insignificant matter that brought Paul into contact with them—"he was one of the same trade." But God uses things just like this for the promotion of His Kingdom. It would be well if we would make more of them for the same purpose. Are you a merchant? Make a point of getting hold of merchandise for Christ. Are you a blacksmith? Cultivate the blacksmith.

An unrighteous edict of Claudius had driven Aquila and Priscilla out of Rome. It doubtless seemed to them a bitter thing, but God turned it to their good, to no less a good than their eternal salvation (cf. Ps. 78: 10). There are men to-day who think it wrong "a lack of faith," to do manual labor or any secular work for their own support or that of their families, because God has "called" them to preach. If there was ever a man about whose call to preach there could be no possible doubt, it is this man Paul, and yet he wrought with his hands (cf. ch. 20: 34, 35). He got right down to honest toil and set a wholesome example for the Church and for us (1 Cor. 9: 6-12; 2 Thess. 3: 8, 9; 1 Thess. 2: 9).

We need many Pauls to-day, men so on fire with the Gospel and love for souls that they will not wait for someone to promise them support before they will preach, but, if need be, support themselves. Paul preached, too, while he worked. To an audience of two, a small audience, but how those quiet meetings counted for eternity. Probably he got pretty tired during the week, but every Sabbath found him at his post, not a very expressive statement in the R.V. "Paul was constrained by the word." Paul had meditated upon the Word of God until it had so gotten hold of him that he could not keep still (cf. Jer. 20: 9; Acts 4: 20). It impelled him on. It showed him, and overpowered him with the thought, that Jesus was the Christ, and he must tell it out. But the Jews were not willing to receive Paul's testimony. "They opposed themselves and blasphemed." The most faithful testimony will often be received in that way.

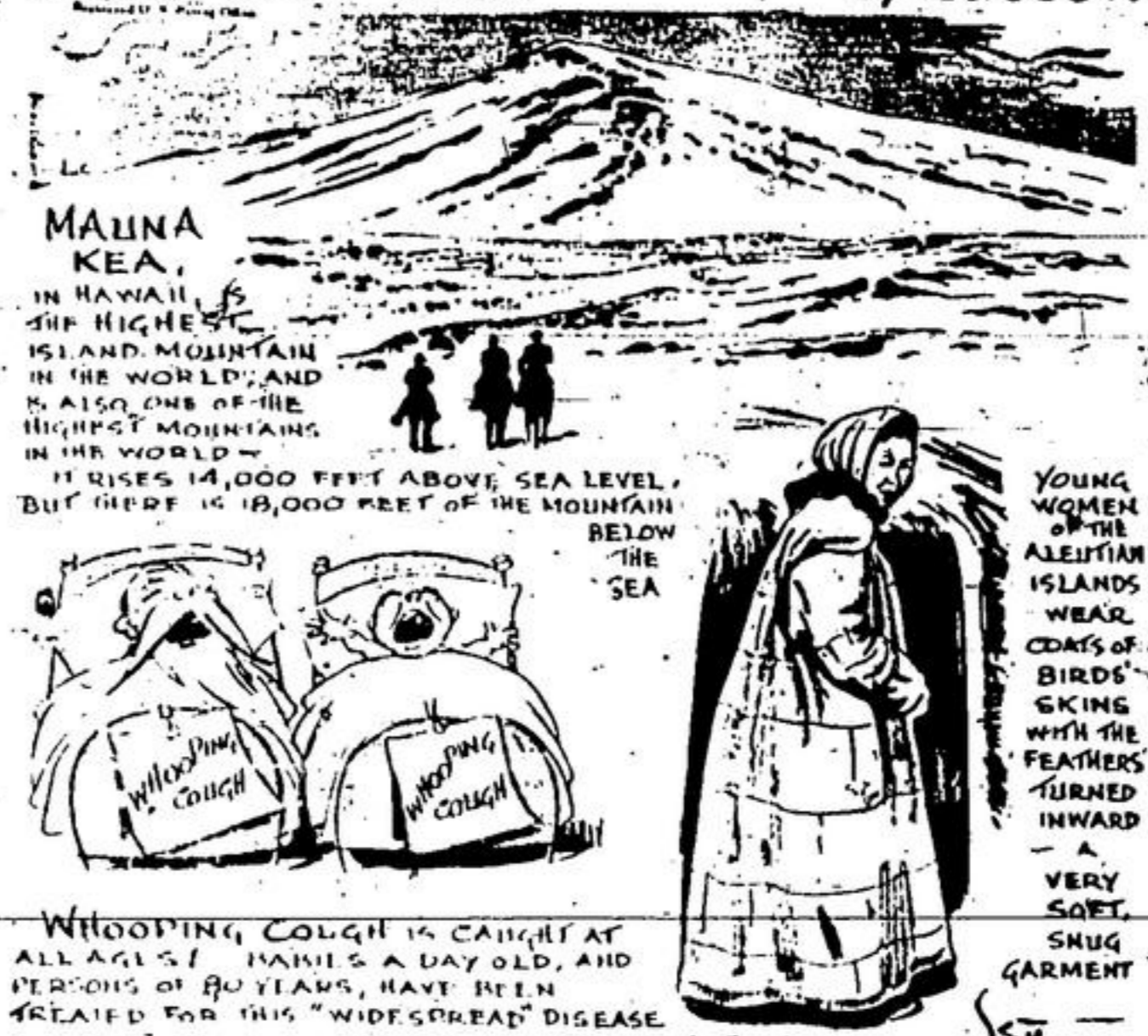
Paul Conducting a Revival in the Home of Justus in Corinth, 7-11. Paul's labors bore abundant fruit. Even the ruler of the synagogue received the truth and with him his whole house. Many others believed also, and openly confessed their faith in baptism. The order of experience as given in v. 8 is suggestive: heard, believed, were baptized. But still there was opposition. Indeed, the opposition doubtless, increased with Paul's success. Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night: "What is just like the Lord." Paul had had a pretty hard time of it in Corinth, and was to have still a harder time, and the Lord appeared and comforted him and strengthened him for the coming trial. The Lord often spoke to Paul in this way (ch. 22: 18; 23: 11; 27: 23-25).

So He is ready to speak to us, but we do not need visions, as Paul did, for we have the written Word. We can carry the voice of God around our vest-pocket and have Him speak to us whenever we will. Listen to the Lord's message. "Be not afraid," that is one of God's favorite messages. God wants no frightened soldiers. There was to be opposition, but Paul must throw fear to the winds, and speak right out the whole message of God. The Lord gave Paul an all-sufficient reason for not being afraid: "For I am with thee." Of course, then, Paul could not be afraid. All Corinth was no match for Christ.

It is no use telling a man not to be afraid unless you give him some reason for fearlessness. But here is an all-sufficient reason, and every child of God who is obeying Christ and going out to do His work, has the same reason (Matt. 28: 19, 20; cf. Josh. 1: 5, 9; Isa. 41: 10; 43: 1, 2). Paul was to "speak" in face of all opposition and not hold his peace, and the Lord Jesus tells him why: "For I have much people in this city." The Lord had people there, and the Lord's people are called out by the spoken Word. There was work that Paul must do, and the Lord would not allow His servant to be hindered in His work. The Lord only allows us to be hurt when both we and the work will be helped on thereby (Romans 8: 31; Isa. 54: 17; Jer. 15: 20, 21).

III. "Nothing Save Christ." 1 Cor. 2: 1-5. How we pride ourselves in our wisdom, the learning and culture and science of this great twentieth century! God laughs at it and puts this mark upon it, FOOLISHNESS. How proudly we talk about our "reasoning," but "the Lord knoweth the reasonings of the wise, that they are vain" (v. 20, R.V.; cf. Ps. 94: 11). How amused the Infinite Wisdom must be at much of our "science" and "philosophy of the past" have gone. "Let no one then glory in men." They may appear to us to be very great and very wise and eloquent, but except in as far as God may graciously use them they are only vanity.

SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK By R. J. SCOTT



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Lady Tweedsmuir Receives Bermudan Gift



Lady Tweedsmuir, left, is pictured at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, with the large bunch of Bermudan lilies, which were presented to her by Miss Myrtle Motyer, right, of Bermuda, on behalf of Lady Hildyard, wife of the retiring Governor of Bermuda. Lady Tweedsmuir reciprocated by sending flowers to Lady Hildyard, with Miss Motyer.

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TIME TABLES

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Daily, except Sunday 6:05 a.m. Daily, except Sunday 9:54 a.m. Daily, except Sunday 6:31 p.m. Sunday only 8:19 p.m.

An eastbound train not stopping at Acton is due at Guelph at 9:15 and at Georgetown at 9:41 p.m.

Going West Daily, except Sunday 8:48 a.m. Daily, except Sunday 7:00 p.m. Sunday only 11:32 p.m. Saturday only 1:59 p.m.

A westbound train not stopping here is due at Georgetown at 6:05 p.m. and at Guelph at 6:35 p.m.

GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON Standard Time EASTBOUND (To Toronto) 8:58 a.m. 5:51 p.m. 9:01 a.m. 5:51 p.m. 11:31 a.m. 8:46 p.m. 2:06 p.m.

WESTBOUND (To Kitchener) 9:53 a.m. 6:18 p.m. 12:23 p.m. 6:08 p.m. 2:23 p.m. 6:03 p.m. 4:23 p.m. 6:13 p.m.

x—Through to London a daily, except Sun. and Hol.; b—Sun. and Hol. only; c—Sat. only; d—Daily except Sat. Sun. and Hol.; e—Sat. Sun. and Hol. only; f—Daily except Sun.