The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

Proud of the Achievement

Sixty-seven years ago, the year before Acton was incorporated as a village, Acton had its first band. All down through the sixty-seven years since, Acton has always had a band. Sometimes it was a real robust organization and at other times the membership and enthusiasm was low. We recall hearing about the days when Acton competed in County band contests and won the prize for their rendition of "God Save the Queen." But always Acton has had its band, willing to take a part in every community endeavor and do the work that only a band can do.

All of those who formed the first band have passed away. Many who have "played in the band" at different periods are not now in the band. But Acton may well be proud that in this year, 1939, Acton has a band that can compete sucessfully in open competition as Acton Citizens' Band did on Saturday. They have brought honor to the community with their effort. Their years of continuous service have proven a worthwhile effort and a greater benefit than can ever be estimated. Acton is proud of its Band and citizens generally offer congratulations on their achievement and the winning of first place at the big Waterloo Festival.

Dominion Day

On Saturday Canada will be seventy-two years old. As nations go it is a comparatively young country. As far as development of natural resources is concerned, the surface has not been deeply scratched. Over three hundred years ago Bacon wrote, "In the youth of a state arms do flourish; in the middle age, learning; and then both of them together for a time; in the declining age, mechanical arts and merchandise."

Just what stage Canada has reached in these seventy-two years since Confederation may be a matter of debate, but it would seem to us that Canada was still very youthful. It has opportunities yet for the youth who is willing to take his or her part in this task of developing a youthful nation. Perhaps the years which follow may make that farewell message of King George VI a prophetic one. Ours is the opportunity. We have lived at peace with our neighbors. Both nations have developed and prospered. Ours may yet be the examle which all the world may follow.

Old worlds have a background that makes it hard often to settle their difficulties. We in these younger nations can resolve to cement and perfect our methods of living at peace with our neighbor. We might well resolve in our days of youth as a nation to guard against the pitfalls that have brought about unsettled conditions in older countries. And we might also on this Dominion Day and Canada's birthday, resolve to give of whatever energy and talent we may possess in upbuilding the nation, not for the present, but for the future.

Another Servant of Man

Writing these columns this week and endeavoring to make comment on things of current interest in the community come a bit difficult when intimate connection with these events has been lost for a few days. Being in rather an isolated district for several days on a fishing trip, the only contact we had with these events was by way of the radio.

Surely this invention has brought the uttermost parts of the country together. In the dining room of a cabin nearly forty miles in the heart of Algonquin Park we listened on Saturday night to the school children from Acton give their splendid concert. And as we listened we pictured the activity in the studio and the familiar voices that were presenting that program. It was a real treat, because on other Acton programs we had been in the studio, helping a little behind scenes.

But what we wanted to tell you was how that radio was run. The motor from a motor boat had been rigged up to run a generator. This equipment gave power for a few electric lights, a radio and some other household appliances. And it worked perfectly. Gasoline is the medium that has made possible many improvements in out of way places. It provides light and power in places inaccessible for electricity. A trip back from the beaten path gives a greater appreciation of the part gasoline plays in providing many of the things Hydro does for us in this more thickly populated section.

The Nigger in the Rail Woodpile

Why has "co-operative competition" between Canada's two great railways systems failed? During the recent debate in the Senate an effort was made by some Government speakers to indicate that the failure was due to the fact that the Canadian Pacific Railway blocked co-operation. A suggestion to this effect was actually incorporated in the draft report which Government Leader Dandurand sought to have the special railway committee present to the Senate. But other Senators pointed out that there was no evidence that the C.P.R. had at any point blocked co-operation and the phrase was eliminated by Senator Dandurand.

During the debate in the Upper House, Senator Ballantyne, of Montreal, who was one of the original supporters of the Duff Commission plan of co-operative competition, admitted the failure of that plan. But he objected to the repeated assertion that it was the privately owned line that caused the plan to fail. He said:

> "After having studied the evidence carefully, I challenge anyone to produce from it anything that would support any other conclusion than that the Canadian Pacific officers sincerely tried to make every possible saving which would not unduly sacrifice the interests of their company."

The truth about co-operation is that neither the Bennett nor the King Government has ever made the slightest move to bring the two railways together or to encourage important co-operative, money-seving agreements between them. It may further be true that co-operative competition is a futile paradox and it could not be successful. But this much we do know: that no substantial measures of co-operation have been put into effect and that whether for practical, psychological or politial reasons the Duff plan is a failure.—The Financial Post.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Registration of motor vehicles in Canada during 1938 totalled 1,394,853, an increase of 75,151 over the preceding year.

Building permits issued in 58 Canadian cities during April had a value of $5,936,806 compared with $4,890,677 in April, 1938.

Burlington favored allowing Hamilton dairies selling milk in that town when a vote was taken on Monday on the question.

Drowning accidents are taking a toll almost equal to that of summer motor traffic. Both pleasures demand extreme care all the time.

The pest of summertime, mosquitoes, are with us again and so far science has given us little that actually works on this pest successfully.

Schools close to-day for the long summer holiday. Two months of just fun. No wonder many a man and woman of to-day recalls with pleasure the school days of other years.

Acton Scouts are planning a camping period and junior members of the Y.M.C.A. have the opportunity of using the camp at Norval. Splendid facilities are indeed available to the young lads of Acton for a summer camping time.

The capital investment in the Canadian fishing industry amounts to about 45 million dollars. And that doesn't include all the tackle owned by a multitude of amateur fishermen who may have anything from a bamboo pole to a whole boat load.

The latest available estimate places Canada's forest resources at 273,656 million cubic feet of standing timber, made up of 425,250 million feet board measure of sawn lumber and 1,746,639 thousand cords of pulpwood, ties, poles and other smaller materials.

As 1939 journeys along, it continues to bring outstanding accomplishments to Acton. First it was the hockey championship, then the school children took top place with their singing and now Acton Band won high place at the Waterloo Musical Festival and the trophy and gold medals. Everyone is doing their part well.

The Sunday School Lesson

FOR SUNDAY, JULY 2nd, 1939

Lessons from Israel's Leaders

SOLOMON: A RULER WHO BEGAN WELL

Golden Text.—Give thy servant therefore an understanding heart . . . that I may discern between good and evil.—1 Kings 3: 9.

Lesson Text.—1 Kings 3: 5-15.

Time.—1014 B.C. Place.—Gibeon.

Exposition.—I. Solomon's Prayer to Jehovah, 5-9.

Solomon went to Gibeon because the Tabernacle, the place where Jehovah peculiarly manifested Himself to His people, was there (1 Chron. 21: 29; 2 Chron. 1: 3, 7, R.V.; Ex. 29: 42, 43, R.V.). Until the Temple superseded it, that is where men who longed to meet God went, the place God Himself had appointed. The Tabernacle was a type of Christ (John 1: 14, R.V.), it is in Him that we meet God (John 14: 6). Each one of the thousand burnt offerings that Solomon offered also pointed forward to Christ. In Him there is better ground of approach to God than in countless slain beasts (Heb. 10: 1-22). The desire with which Solomon went to Gibeon was satisfied, God met him there. Twice in his life was it granted to Solomon to meet God (cf. ch. 9: 2; 11: 9). To many of us it is granted to meet God far more frequently than that. The appearance was in a dream, but it was a real appearance (cf. Gen. 28: 12, 13; Num. 12: 6; Job 33: 14, 15; Matt. 1: 20; 2: 13, 19; Acts 18: 9, 10). That God really spoke to Solomon, and that the whole incident was no product of a distorted fancy, is evident from the outcome—Solomon really obtained what God promised at this time.

It was a wonderful thing that God said to Solomon, "Ask what I shall give thee"—God setting all the infinite resources of His power at the disposal of a man. But He says the same wonderful thing to each humblest child of God to-day (John 14: 13, 14; 15: 7; Matt. 7: 7, 8; Mark 11: 24; John 15: 16; 16: 23, 24; 1 John 3: 22; 5: 14, 15). Before asking for anything, Solomon acknowledged the wonderful goodness of Jehovah already manifested toward his father and himself (cf. Phil. 4: 6; Col. 4: 2). God's great "kindness" (R.V.) to his father in the past encouraged Solomon to ask great things for himself in the present. God's dealing in kindness with David was according to David's sincere, righteous and upright walk (cf ch. 9: 4; 15: 5; 2 Kings 20: 3, 4; Psalms 15: 1, 2; 18: 20-24; 1 John 3: 22).

A crowning manifestation of God's kindness was that He had given him a son to succeed to his position and to do his work. Solomon speaks of his father by a more honorable title than king, "thy servant David." Jehovah Himself had conferred this title upon David (2 Sam. 7: 5). Solomon recognized that he owed his own present exalted position entirely to God (cf. Dan. 2: 21; 4: 25, 32; 5: 18, 21). He also recognized his own utter insufficiency for the position. He was perhaps twenty-one years of age at this time. In his own eyes he was but "a little child" (cf. 1 Chron. 29: 1; Jer. 1: 6; Luke 14: 11). He saw the greatness of the responsibility that had been laid upon him. To him office was not a possession for one's own private gain, but a sacred trust. The people was a great people in numbers, but that was not the most important fact about them, they were God's own people whom He had chosen. On that all kings and presidents and governors, and pastors, too, felt their solemn responsibilities as Solomon felt his at this time.

What he asked is of more value than all honors and all riches (Prov. 3: 13-18; 16: 16). His father's words to him and prayer for him had suggested to Solomon this request (1 Chron. 22: 12; 29: 19). Those words had gone deep into Solomon's heart. This great thing that Solomon asked we may all ask and get (Jas. 1: 5-7). It was not for his own sake that Solomon asked for an understanding heart, but for the people's good, and above all because they were Jehovah's people. In the final analysis, the chief aim of the prayer was Jehovah's glory.

II. Jehovah's Answer to Solomon, 10-15.

God was pleased with Solomon's prayer. He is always pleased with an intelligent prayer (Prov. 15: 8). He mentions some of the things that Solomon might have asked, things that many would have asked had they had Solomon's opportunity. But Solomon's choice was much wiser. A wonderful thing God says to him, "I have done according to thy words." Think of it, the infinite God doing according to the words of a finite man.

His wisdom became noted throughout the earth, and throughout all ages (v. 28; ch. 4: 29-34; 5: 12; 10: 3-8, 23, 24). God also gave him exceeding abundantly above what he asked (cf. Eph. 3: 20). If we seek the best thing, God will give us with it the minor things (Matt. 6: 33; Ps. 84: 11, 12; Romans 8: 32). His riches were enormous (ch. 10: 23-29). Wisdom which he sought came bringing riches and honor in her hand (cf. Prov. 3: 16). God made Solomon still another promise, but this was conditional upon his future conduct (v. 14). The promise was long life; the condition, obedience. Obedience to God's laws is the great secret of longevity (Deut. 5: 16; 25: 15; Prov. 3: 1, 2, 166; 1 Tim. 4: 8). All God's richest blessings are conditioned upon obedience (Acts 5: 32; John 14: 15-23). Solomon did not fulfill the condition and missed the promised blessing, he died comparatively young (1 Kings 11: 42).

SUDETEN REFUGEES HAPPY, IN NEW HOMES IN WEST

Sudeten refugees recently settled in the St. Walburg District of Northern Saskatchewan experienced many happy surprises when they arrived in the western farming areas. They were relieved when they learned there was no need to arm against Indians, pleased to know they will be able to grow potatoes and make sauerkraut in Canada.

J. J. Wieler, of the Colonzation Department of the Canadian National Railways, in charge of three large parties of refugees found they are making excellent settlers. "What strikes them most in this country is the freedom of movement," Mr. Wieller asserted. "They have to adjust themselves to that. And the thing that overjoys them is the abundance of good food. They are fond of pork and were pleased when told they will be able to 'raise pigs'."

What letter is invisible yet never out of sight?
The letter I.

HISTORIC SITES TO BE MARKED

Recommendations for the marking of nineteen historic sites of national importance were approved at the annual meeting of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, held in Ottawa from May 29th to June 1st. This board is the advisory body which assists the National Parks Bureau of the Department of Mines and Resources in dealing with historic sites of national importance.

Among the memorials to be erected this year are seven bronze tablets to the following Fathers of Confederation who were associated with Prince Edward Island: George Coles, thrice Premier of Prince Edward Island, 1851-1854, 1855-1859, and 1876-1869; Colonel John Hamilton Gray, C.M.G., Premier of Prince Edward Island, 1863-1865; Thomas Heath Haviland, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, 1879-1884; Andrew Archibald Macdonald, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, 1884-1889; Edward Palmer, Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island, 1874-1889; William Henry Pope, Judge of Prince Edward County Court, 1873-1879, and Edward Whelan, journalist, orator and advocate of free land, free schools and responsible government. Arrangements are being made to unveil these tablets in July, when Prince Edward Island will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference, the first of the conferences leading to the Confederation of the Provinces and the Dominion of Canada.

Present plans also include the marking of the following historic sites: at Fredericton, N.B., a monument will be erected to commemorate the establishment of the first Ministry of Health in the British Empire, 1918; at McGill University, Montreal, P.Q., a tablet to commemorate the public services of Lord Rutherford in the field of science; at Orillia, Ontario, a monument to commemorate the treaties made in 1798, 1815, and 1818, whereby the Indian tributes surrendered the ancient country of the Hurons, lying north and south of Lake Simcoe, and at Jasper, Alberta, a monument to the Overlanders of 1862. Additional monuments and tablets will be erected in other parts of the Dominion.

UP TO THE MINUTE

A radio had been newly installed in a house which boasts an alert and intelligent 4-year-old daughter. This young lady listened with great attention to an afternoon program before being sent off to bed. She said her nightly prayer, and afterward added in a grave tone: "To-morrow night at this time there will be another prayer."

Why are stars like an old barn?
Because there are r-a-t-s in both.

Canadian Girls at Empire Pageant of Fitness

Girls of the Canadian contingent are pictured during the mass rehearsal which preceded the recent Empire pageant of physical fitness, sponsored by the League of Health of Beauty, and held in London. Delegates from all parts of the Empire participated in the rally.

Business Directory

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DR. J. A. McNIVEN
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Office Hours — Acton, Tuesday and Thursday, 1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Evenings on request.

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TIME TABLES

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
AT ACTON
STANDARD TIME

Going East
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
a5.58 a.m., 9.01 a.m., 11.31 a.m., c2.06 p.m., 3.51 p.m., 5.51 p.m., 8.56 p.m.
a—except Sundays c—Sat. only
WESTBOUND
To London
x9.53 a.m., 2.23 p.m., b6.18 p.m.
x8.06 p.m
x—Connections for Owen Sound
b—Sun. and Hol.