



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

A Community Loss

This community lost one of its most loyal supporters last week in the death of R. J. Kerr. We have often wondered just what heights Acton would attain if it had a half dozen citizens of his type, continually boosting this community, wherever he went. Unfortunately no community is ever blest with a half dozen and the rarity makes the loss all the more serious.

It was our good fortune to be in the company of R. J. Kerr frequently. Many occasions were away from Acton. Invariably he never lost an opportunity to speak well of Acton and its people. Oftentimes he made the opportunity. Citizens of his ability and loyalty are, as we said, too few and therefore this community is the loser by his passing.

Some way or other we always connected Acton's motto on its crest with R. J. Kerr. We know full well he had nothing to do with its selection, but the two seemed to go so much together. "Flourish Acton"—May Acton Flourish. And the lives of such men as R. J. Kerr did much to make such mottoes more than empty words. Such lives give words a living meaning. We in the newspaper field, who have the privilege of recording each week the life of this community, perhaps realize more what a blank is left when such men pass on. But we, too, appreciate fully what such a life has meant when we attempt to summarize it and what a duty must be assumed by others in keeping that spirit alive.

Easy Misunderstanding

Acton and the district around here is no different from many others. The war has provided the opportunity for those who relish gossip to dig deep into the history of many folks of German origin. It doesn't matter if the history is only distinguishable in the name, or how far back the German ancestry has to be traced. And once these rumors start, it is truly remarkable how they grow. A mushroom really stands still alongside their rapid development.

The first rumor may have been innocently started but it is very apt to reach such proportions—in the felling that in a few days the original will not be recognized. Many of these folks about which such rumors are started, are the best of Canadians. They know nothing of Germany and possibly never saw the forefathers whose name of German origin they bear. Surely we do not want to breed this type of hatred in Canada among fellow Canadians! Surely this freedom we boast and enjoy is a freedom for all who have struggled in the forming of this new world of ours.

But a word, too, for those who enjoy this freedom. At this and at other times it is well to show an appreciation of Canadian and British freedom. The present is no time to make light of it and speak in favor of views that have brought the world into conflict. A word at war and the people are given to misunderstanding and quick to take up a statement that might at another time be considered lightly.

Hallowe'en Fun for All

Next Tuesday is Hallowe'en. Like many other folks we regret that the plan of a community frolic has been dropped for the past few years. Everyone wants the young folks to have a good time and it does seem that the best time can be had when we all get together in a community way.

We know full well that if the task is left to a few that it may become burdensome. Perhaps that is the reason that the plan has been dropped in the past two or three years. The Band and the business men

have both made splendid efforts in conducting these events. We have all the facilities that can make them enjoyable, no matter what the weather may be. Perhaps if other organizations gave a helping hand the Hallowe'en frolic might be revived. Knowing of their interest, we are sure the Band and business men would help. After all, any kind of a community affair requires the whole community to make it go. Next Tuesday is Hallowe'en. Fun can be directed right and enjoyed by all if given the right leadership. It's not too late to organize the Hallowe'en frolic this year, and remember, many hands make the task light. School teachers can help by organizing the children of school age.

Our Contribution

On Monday of this week that book, "Acton's Early Days" that we've been talking about for some time, left our hands and will be completed when we next see it. The publishing of such a volume in a plant of the size in Acton is just a little out of the usual. Matter of fact, it was a new experience. It is just probable that if we had realized the work and cost involved that we would have hesitated to announce that it would be published. Now that it has been done, we are glad, but we make no further promises regarding books that will be undertaken in this office other than from a printing standpoint.

As we said before, we are glad that the book is being made available. From a financial standpoint we doubt if it will meet the costs. But in book form, sturdily bound, these recollections are now preserved for this and other generations who follow.

While the material had appeared in The Free Press, the files are only available to a few. In newspaper form, too, it was difficult to secure the information contained. It was a great pleasure to be able, just before the book was finally completed, to secure a picture of Acton in the early days, and include it in the book. Other material made it necessary to include an "Addenda" and we suppose those who read may say even then all has not been told.

We have felt we would like to contribute something of especial interest to those readers of THE FREE PRESS who have made this paper their family journal for so many years. It was this thought that prompted the plan whereby subscribers might secure a copy by paying three years' subscription in advance. At other times we have offered special inducements to new subscribers. The present is the time that we make recognition of old subscribers and regular readers of THE FREE PRESS. But we do not make any promises of publishing other books of a similar nature. We hope you will like "Acton's Early Days" when it is available, the latter part of next week.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"There is no likelihood of an early and an easy peace."—Walter Lippmann.

Hockey and curling meetings and some preparations at the Arena indicate that winter is soon anticipated and a dull one is not planned.

Remembrance Day—two weeks from Saturday. It will this year have a different significance than at any other time since it has been observed.

Evenings at Acton Y. are busy ones and the place is popular for young and old. Mr. Benson, the new supervisor is getting acquainted with all.

Asbestos production in Canada during the first six months of 1939 totalled 144,207 tons, compared with 132,171 tons in the corresponding period of 1938.

Before Christmas time comes the Municipal elections and the passing of necessary by-laws this week is a reminder that nominations are only a month away.

A rosy Canadian apple, sold by a robust Canadian lad, make a real appeal, and a happy combination. Perhaps that is the reason for the popularity of the Boy Scouts Apple Day.

Shortages that developed immediately after the outbreak of war seem to have disappeared. Of course now that the canning season is over the demand for sugar is not so heavy.

The last week of October and delightful fall weather, without a snow flurry of any consequence marks this as a year of exception. Those who pay the fuel bills appreciate the break.

Still a few days left in which the women may enroll in the voluntary registration for Acton. A list of places where forms may be filled in was published last week. Registration carries no obligation.

Ontario News of the Week

By Muriel McDonald

News behind the news of the past few days is the intense preparation for a long and serious war being made at Ottawa, Toronto and other Canadian governmental centres. Behind closed doors, and without the accompaniment of publicity, our elected leaders, our paid public servants and representatives of business enterprises have put their collective noses to the grindstone, bent on transforming plants for a tremendous Canadian war supply organization into an accomplished fact.

Great Britain's mission, recently augmented, by further arrivals from the Old Country, is busy advising Canada what is needed at the centre of operations. Industrialists are projecting new factories and additions to existing plants, and adequate steps are being taken to make sure there will be sufficient competent workmen to man the factories when the big machine is finally thrown into high gear.

Already scores of air-minded youths in Great Britain and Canada's sister Dominions are packing up their duds to join an Empire group of air fighters, to be trained at a hundred air fields dotting this country. Provided there is no uniform development, citizens of Canada will be witnessing the awesome spectacle of massed flights, early next year, and by then thousands of young Canadians will be invited to join the air force.

Gradually the general public is coming to the realization that Prime Minister Chamberlain was not resorting to propaganda when he warned the Empire to get ready for a war of three years or longer. Determined to fight until Hitler is beaten and Hitlerism banished, the Allies have apparently settled down to a siege of Germany, preparing steadily for a grand offensive later on, if necessary, but saving as many of their own men as possible in the meantime.

It is not unlikely that future history books may show that this situation is the reason why only one Canadian division is in training so far, with no call yet for its transportation across the Atlantic; why fare is being taken that there shall be plenty of men left in the country to furnish workmen in the factories and personnel for the Air Force.

Far-sighted Premier Hepburn pulled a real surprise packet from his cupboard of unpredictable moves when he gave qualified approval to the development of the St. Lawrence waterway project—something he has vehemently opposed for years. Of course, with such an ambitious program for industrial expansion ahead of the country, it is only natural that Ontario's lead should feel that the whole country's expected need for more power and greater ocean port facilities transcends the importance of battling over provincial rights. Whether one agrees or disagrees with the opinion that the big waterway development is a sound economical venture, most people will nod in approval when Mr. Hepburn backs up his talk of unified national effort with action that must go against his personal feelings.

Glamorous tales of the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police—from now on will be changed by the delation of the horse. Now that cars and motorcycles have replaced the faithful animal, Defence Minister Rogers has authorized the R.C.M.P. at Rockcliffe barracks to rent their horses to any one who will take care of them properly. In fact, Ottawa citizens can rent a prancing steed from the Mounties for as little as one dollar a month and keep.

What with the farmers sending their products to market in motor trucks and plowing their fields with tractors, the army turning its back on the animal,

the racing season over at Canadian tracks and the Royal Winter Fair cancelled for the year, it appears a pretty dismal season for the horse.

The city of Toronto is reaching out for more revenue in these times of war. The abolition of tax exemptions now enjoyed by private schools, collection of increased taxes from chain stores and gasoline service stations and the repeal of certain corporation incomes tax exemptions are proposed. The interesting feature of increased emergency taxation is their tendency to stick. Of the taxes imposed as war measures during the last Great War, about the only one to be abolished was the entertainment tax. And now there is talk of that going into force once more.

Despite the ruling of the Supreme Court that the Canada Temperance Act is valid in Huron, Perth and Peel Counties, and in the district of Manitowish, the Ontario Government has determined on aggressive enforcement of the Ontario Liquor Control Act in these territories. This seems bound to lead to conflict and perhaps a rich harvest for lawyers.

NATIONAL FORESTRY PROGRAM BENEFITS YOUTH AND FOREST

Canada's National Forestry Program has been an outstanding success in improving the physical well-being and morale of the young men participating in this national project, according to reports from the Dominion section of the Program, received by the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa. Boys who went into camp early last summer in

poor condition, scrawny, and in some cases under-nourished, are to-day well developed, bright, eager to work and anxious to learn. A spirit of self-discipline and co-operation has been developed which is very gratifying, and visitors to the camps speak highly of the conduct and good manners of the members.

Aside from this rehabilitation of youth, much good of a practical nature has been accomplished in added protection for the forests and training in forest practice. Young men encamped in the various National Parks and Dominion Forest Experiment Stations across the Dominion have been engaged in many diversified projects, including the construction of roads, trails, fire guards, telephone lines, cabins, tourist camps, and similar works. Almost as important have been the various kinds of improvement cuttings in the timber stands, where large areas of forest have been thinned, trees selected for the final crop pruned, and, in general, desirable species favored so that they may grow to maturity in the shortest possible time.

In addition to these activities, many of the youths have been engaged in special studies, assisting the regular staff of the Department in the re-measurement of sample plots, timber cruising, and other survey work.

Another important activity of the young men is the collection of forest insects which provides valuable knowledge for scientific purposes. This information is also of practical application in giving forewarning of possible oncoming forest insect infestations. Similarly collections being made of forest plants are adding to the knowledge of forest soils and of growth possibilities for different timbers of commercial importance.

Advertisement for Gray Coach Lines featuring "GO PLACES-SEE THINGS" and "ENJOY LIFE!". Includes a table of fares for various cities like WAHINGTON, DETROIT, CHICAGO, etc.

Advertisement for Scott's Scrap Book by R.J. Scott, featuring a portrait of Lord Joseph Lister and a cow. Text includes "NO WONDER MUGLAGE IS CHEAP!" and "THE CAUSE AND PREVENTION OF INFECTION IN WOUNDS, IS CREDITED WITH SAVING MORE LIVES THAN ALL THE WARS IN THE WORLD'S HISTORY HAVE TAKEN!"

Advertisement for Athenia Survivors in New York En Route to Canada, featuring a group of people and text about Mr. and Mrs. Michael Martyn and family.

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- Gray Coach Lines

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