

THE THINGS WORTH WHILE

As we sum up our life when death draws near, And value all that we had or knew, We find that the things we count most dear, Are the simple things that are old and true:

The blessings of home and the love of friends, Of those who have loved us long and well, With love that neither changes nor ends, And the depths of which only God can tell.

The mountain's height and the distant view, The open plains and the rising sun; The joy of working; the whole day through, And the long night's rest when the day is done.

The beauty of nature, the quest of truth, The light of knowledge, the lure of art; The glory shed by the dreams of youth; The easing of burdens in life's great mart.

To keep your mind and your vision clear, Your soul serene in the darkest strife; To radiate love, good will and cheer, All these are the things worth while in life.

H. B. Mayo.

Twenty Years Ago

From the Issue of The Free Press of Thursday, March 6th, 1920

Mr. Samuel Wiggins, of Powassan, who recently purchased the Edward Cleave farm, on the Second Line, will shortly take possession. Mr. and Mrs. Victor Watson are moving to his old home, on the Fourth Line, Kasagaweya.

The War Veterans of Acton have purchased from Mr. A. S. ... the family residence, Sunderland Villa, and will proceed at once to fulfil conditions and promises made to the public.

The inaugural meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary was held at the G.W.V.A. rooms on Thursday evening. The officers are: Honorary President, Mrs. C. B. Smith; President, Mrs. G. W. Cook; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. H. Harwood; Secretary, Mrs. S. J. Byrne; Treasurer, Mrs. J. P. Searrow; Committee, Mrs. J. J. Cooney and Mrs. Clifford.

The Baptist Church held seventeenth anniversary services on Sunday, with impressive sermons by Rev. Mr. Johnston, the pastor of the church. Four below zero on Tuesday morning. Acton Horticultural Society has 165 paid up members for the year 1939.

BORN

GUNTON—At 26 Devon Road, Toronto, on Saturday, February 28th 1920, to Mr. and Mrs. Victor H. Gunton, a daughter.

DIED

ZIMMERMAN—At the home of C. B. Braekhamer, Churchill, on Wednesday, February 18th, 1920, Matilda A. Houseman, widow of the late John Zimmerman, in her 83rd year.

HISTORIC SITES MARKED IN 1939

Many outstanding personalities and events associated with Canada's early history were commemorated in 1939, according to a report on historic sites marked by the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa. The task of marking and preserving such sites and monuments is carried out by the National Parks Bureau, which is advised in this phase of its work by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body composed of recognized historians representing the various sections of the country.

During the year seven bronze tablets were erected in Charlottetown to the memory of George Coles, Colonel John Hamilton Gray, Thomas Heath, Haviland, Andrew Archibald Macdonald, Edward Palmer, William Henry Pope, and Edward Whelan, the Fathers of Confederation who represented Prince Edward Island. In Amherst, N.B., Edward Barron Chandler, Robert Barry, Dickey, Jonathan McCully, and Sir Charles Tupper, Fathers of Confederation from Cumberland County, were likewise honored.

At Saint John, N.B., tablets were placed in the Provincial Museum to the memory of James de Mille, Professor of English literature and rhetoric at Dalhousie University, and George McCall Theal, noted educationist and historian. At the Macdonald Physics Building, McGill University, Montreal, the important services rendered to science by Lord Rutherford were commemorated. At Sainte-Sophie d'Halifax, P.Q., the birthplace of Louis Philippe Hebert, famous sculptor, was marked, and at Chamblé, P.Q., similar tribute was paid to Madame Albani, world renowned singer.

An out stone monument with tablet was erected on the grounds of the Royal Military College at Kingston, Ont., to commemorate the services of Sir James Lucas Yeo as Commander in Chief of the naval forces on the Great Lakes during the War of 1812-14. A similar monument was placed in St. John's Park, Winnipeg, Manitoba, in recognition of the services of Thomas Simpson, in connection with the exploration of the Arctic Coast of America.

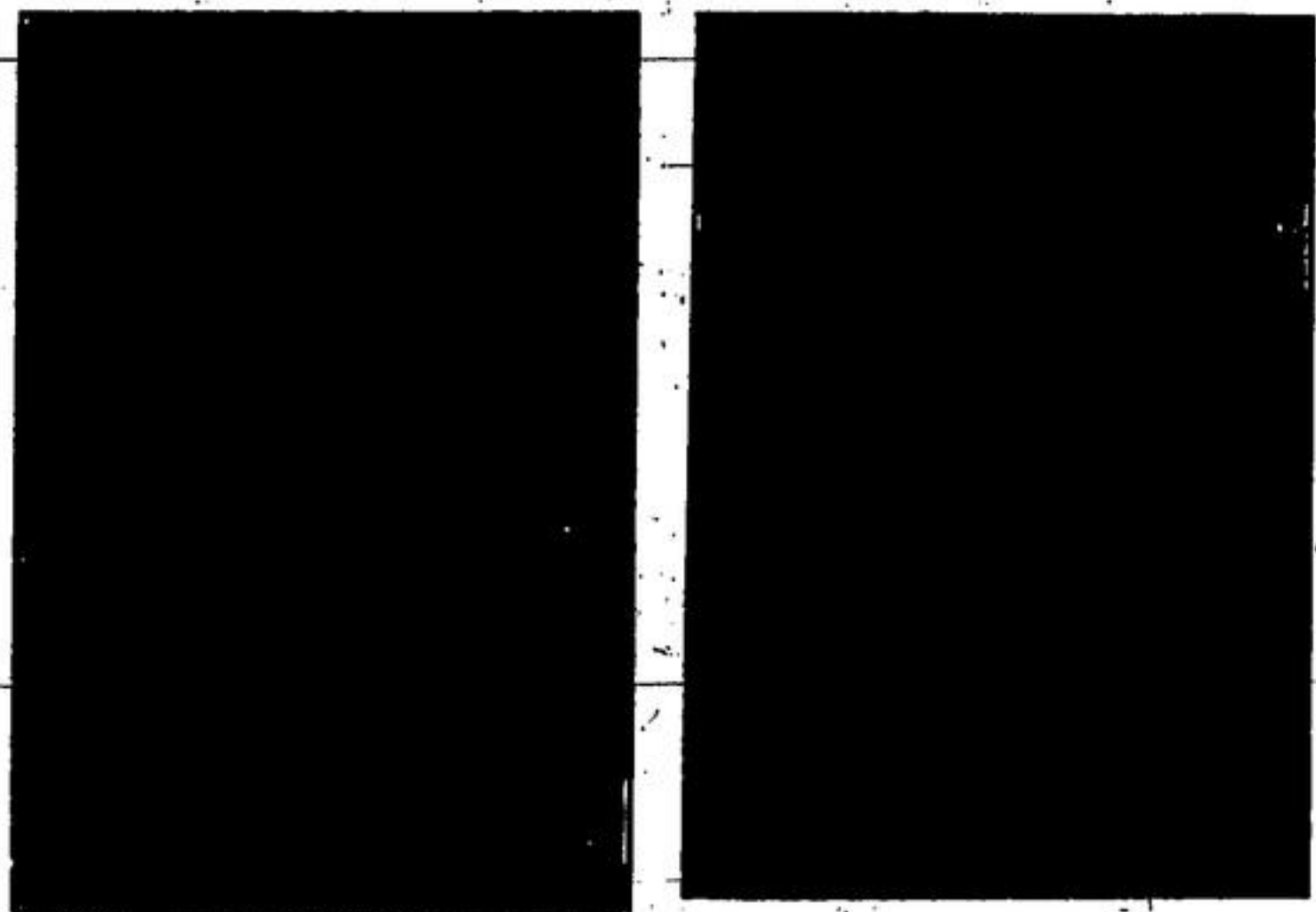
The establishment at Fredericton, N.B., in 1918 of the First Ministry of Health in the British Empire, the departure from Montreal in 1886 of the first regular transcontinental train, the construction of the Cornwall Canal in 1834-42, the first lighthouse on the Great Lakes built in 1804, at Niagara-on-the-Lake, and the treaties concluded with the Indians in 1763, 1815 and 1818 at Orillia, Ontario, were among the events of historic importance which received national recognition in 1939.

Eyes raised toward heaven are always beautiful, whatever they be. — Joseph Joubert.

Acton's Family Album

Turning Over the Pages, Week by Week, and Looking on the Faces of Those Who Were Familiar to Many Here in Other Years

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THESE?



LAST WEEK'S PICTURE

The Free Press Album showed a familiar scene last week. It was the United Church at Churchill, just north of Acton. Yes, it's an hundred years old, but the building is kept up in good repair and has had many improvements during the years since it was first opened.

The LETTER BOX

THROUGH A BOMBERS' EYES (By An Old Sweet)

To the Editor: THE FREE PRESS:

In boyhood days a sizeable creek was the common playground. Here we learned to build dams, sail boats, chase minnows and nab crawfish. Pinning down crawfish with their tails turned under and their shuffling backward motion, were most elusive. And so it was that from this back-paddling or rear shuffle of the crawfish that the English language was further enriched with the verb "to crawfish."

Last week I told the story of the dropping of the Conservative candidate in Hutton County and the selection of a so-called "National Government" candidate. For a week following the famous double-cross, the former candidate was very bitter, but last week the Mighty Manipulators, with much cajoling, succeeded in convincing the ex-candidate that My Party, 'Tis of Thee, came first and their appeared a short statement under the ex-candidate's signature, in which he maintained that his withdrawal had been entirely voluntary. To crawfish means to back-paddle. It was only natural for the Political Atom to follow the double-cross with a little crawfishing. The two are peculiar to cheap political intrigue. The pity is that the ex-candidate became a party to it and weakly met the wishes of the Manipulators. It fooled nobody.

When the conflagration broke out in 1914 few in Canada knew any of the answers. Canadians were ignorant of the potentials for profiteering, or political patronage, and the many disgraceful ramifications of war on a huge scale. Few could foresee the completely selfish pre-occupation on the part of some in using the war to further their own ends, entirely oblivious to the sacrifices others were making with the exalted suffering and grief.

Last September, when the war of 1914-1918 broke out afresh, after an armistice of twenty-five years, thousands of Canadians knew all the answers. The call to arms found a nation determined to finish the job but equally determined to see that the second stage of the World War would be fought and won on a vastly different basis. At least three hundred thousand war veterans are on guard, experienced, thoughtful and with vivid memories. Most of these veterans were not again eligible for military service but they were ready for a national service, the job of checking any repetition of the errors, greed and selfishness of 1914-1918. These men demanded equality of service.

party. Patriotism and loyalty are born of the soul, not of the political mind. And so the fight develops without clarifying the confused thoughts of the public. For this confusion of thought is general. And why?

Simply because under the tumult and the shouting, beneath the polemics in that which all ex-soldiers and some others recognize and abhor. It is this—Mackenzie King and Dr. Manion have declared against conscription. Political weather eyes are cycled on Quebec. There may be much of political expediency on the declarations of both leaders, but it is also evident they are too far committed on this issue ever to draw back. Manion's declaration is, unfortunately and strangely enough, weakened by his call for a national government, for in the eyes of many, a great many, national government and conscription are associated, if for no other reason than the general belief that conscription will never come from any one political party, but only from a national government. This weakness is emphasized by the varied declarations of Conservative candidates and is responsible for some of the confusion now in evidence. At Milton, over a week ago, Gordon Graydon, ex-M.P. for Peel, declared against conscription, except for home service. In Hamilton, very recently, John Marsh, ex-M.P. for Hamilton West, declared "The policy I suggest is no conscription at the present time."

The same day, Dr. L. W. M. Freese, of Gloucester, accepting the Conservative nomination in Middlesex West, stated he could not entirely agree with Dr. Manion in his opposition to conscription. Naturally this adds to the confusion of the moment and leads to the thought that irrespective of the outcome of the present election, Canada, if the war continues for two years, will be in the turmoil of another election—in which national government and conscription will be the bitter issues. Many old soldiers believe this and therefore are more or less indifferent as to the outcome of the present appeal to the voters. They hold that five months of war preparation have not been enough to test the sincerity of the Liberal government nor sufficient to clarify the issues. Some hold that it will take another year to demonstrate the vigor and determination behind Canada's effort. Public opinion is slow to crystallize. It would appear that Canadians, as yet, are not prepared to accept compulsory service, just as they seem committed to the "middle of the road course," of which the Liberal Prime Minister is the chief exponent. Certainly "set in haste, repent at leisure" has never been a Mackenzie King slogan and many are prepared to accept what appears to be a slow motion in the effort that it all spells sound preparation in the end. Manion's job is to convince the public that King's measured tread may be soth.

In the meantime King has proven to the war veteran that there will be no more \$3.00 a week or more \$10 a day for munition work, no more war millionaires, no more unfulfilled promises to volunteer soldiers. The politicians are on the casting ground. Time enough to become exercised as to the question of vigor behind our war effort when this very question is strong enough to break down all the rigidly held political party lines. Then, and then only, can a United Canada speak.

AN OLD SWEET

ONTARIO HEALTH RECORD FOR 1939

The people of Canada enjoyed exceptionally good health in 1939. The mortality rate was 9.5 per thousand of population as compared with 10.6 in 1937. In 1939 the record (official figures not yet available) was excellent as indicated by the very low death rate among approximately 1,250,000 of Canadians who hold policies in the industrial department of one of the large insurance companies. Not only were the death rates in 1937 and 1938 the lowest in the history of the company, but these two years, jointly, had the lowest mortality rate in the Canadian experience of the company. Moreover, the mortality rates for 1939 form a new low for tuberculosis, pneumonia, scarlet fever, the diarrhoeal diseases, and all forms of accident (combined).

Chief interest lies in tuberculosis. Today this disease is number 3 in the list of causes of death of Canadian wage-earners, instead of number 1, as it was only 11 years ago. The current death-rate is 7% lower than in 1938, and 4% lower than 1929. As a result of this reduction alone, hundreds of Canadian lives have been spared every year.

The mortality from pneumonia has been reduced by 19% in a single year and by 55% in ten years; influenza shows a

decline of nearly 70 per cent. in 10 years; the four principal communicable diseases of childhood combined—measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough and diphtheria, have likewise declined 13 per cent. in a single year, and 65% in 10 years. As to diphtheria, it is interesting to note that 10 years ago it caused as many deaths among insured persons in Canada as did the three other communicable diseases combined. To-day deaths from whooping cough, despite a reduction of 40%, outnumber those from diphtheria. The mortality from diarrhoea and enteritis has been reduced by 12% in a single year and by 75% in 10 years. Deaths from childhood conditions have declined by about 25% in 10 years. The Canadian record for fatal accidents in 1939, showed improvement over the preceding year and a drop of 30 per cent. as compared with the figures for 1929. The unfavorable side of the report is

observed in an increased mortality for cancer of about 35% in 10 years. Diseases/heart disease, diseases of the coronary arteries and chronic kidney disease show appreciable rises in 10 years. For all causes of death combined the 1939 death rate is lower by one quarter than 10 years ago. This is something to be thankful for.

TALENT AT HOME

"Did you visit the art galleries when you were in Dresden?" "We didn't need to. Our daughter

CANADA'S WAR PURCHASES

Since the outbreak of hostilities and up to February 15th, the War Supply Board has placed orders having a total value of about \$125,000,000.

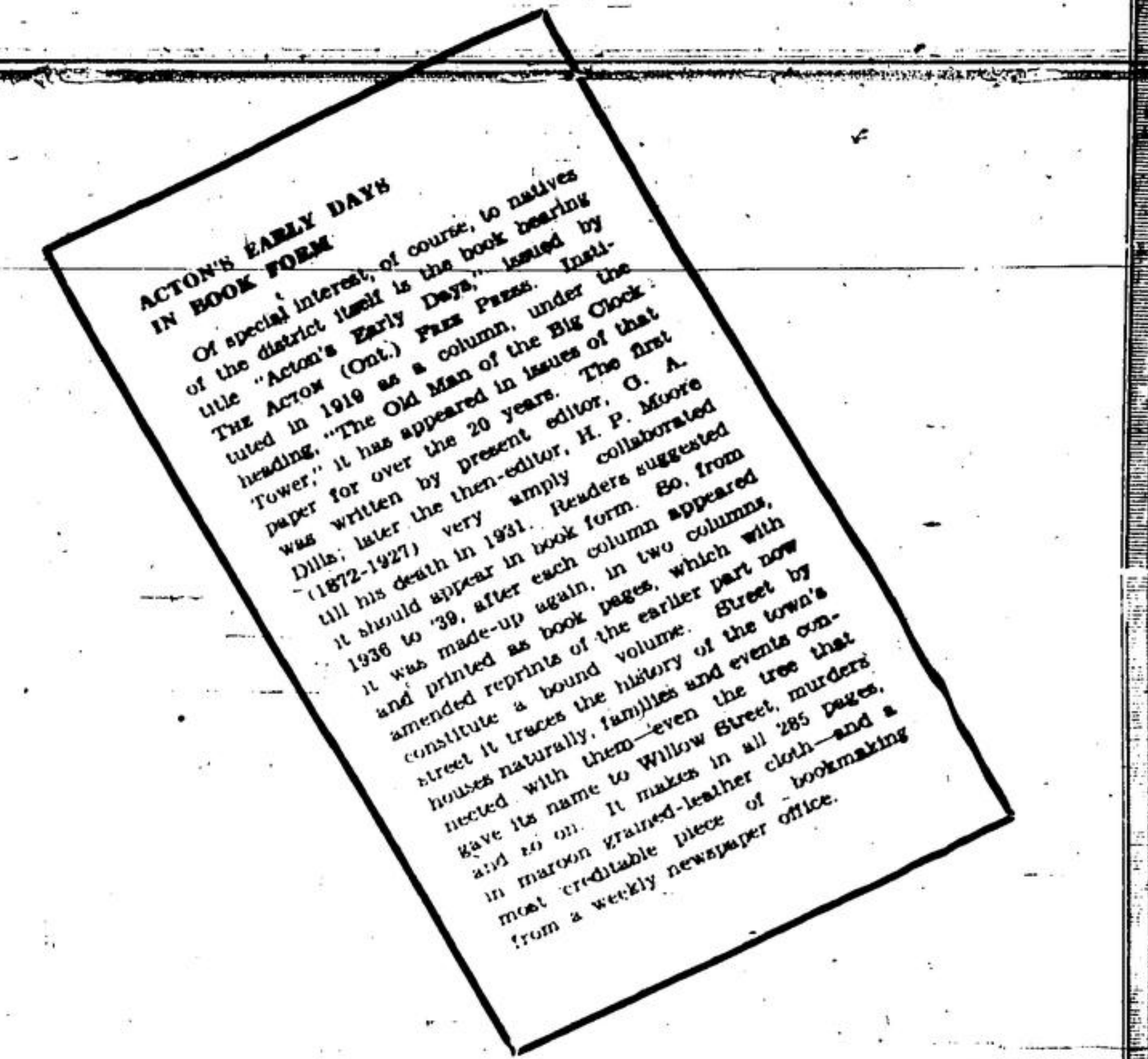
PILOTS TO UNDERGO TWENTY-EIGHT WEEK PERIOD OF TRAINING

Pilots trained under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan will be given intensive instruction extending over a period of twenty-eight weeks. A small proportion of these pilots will be absorbed in the R.C.A.F., but the majority will proceed overseas. Courses for air observers will last for twenty-six weeks, while gunners will be ready for action after a twenty-four week period of training.

All pupils are enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force as Airtrainees, Class II. All will undergo the same course of instruction for a period of four weeks in an initial training school. From then on, pilots, air observers and air gunners will go to their respective schools for additional instruction.

What Others Say . . .

The January issue of Printer and Publisher contains the following article:



ACTON'S EARLY DAYS IN BOOK FORM

Of special interest, of course, to natives of the district, is the book bearing the title "Acton's Early Days" issued by The Acton (Ont.) Free Press, under the edited in 1919 as a column, under the heading, "The Old Man of the Blue Clock Tower," it has appeared in issues of that paper for over the 20 years. The first was written by the then-editor, H. P. Moore (1872-1927) very simply collaborated till his death in 1927. Readers suggested it should appear in book form. So, from 1928 to '39, after each column appeared it was made-up again, in two columns, and printed as book pages, which with amended reprints of the earlier part now constitute a bound volume. Street by street it traces the history of the town's houses naturally, families and events connected with them—even the tree that have its name to Willow Street, and a most creditable piece of bookmaking from a weekly newspaper office.

On purpose we haven't advertised the Book very much the past few weeks. The number of copies for sale is very limited. If you have one on order, please call and secure it now, as we cannot hold these copies if they are asked for by others. While the supply lasts the price remains the same.

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MUGGS AND SKEETER



By WALLY BISHOP