



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLQF DILLS, Editor

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regular plan of clearing the snow from this street becomes more necessary each year and it must be started from the first snow fall. Other sections of the highway through here have sufficient width and boulevard to not make this necessary yet.

Acton's main street has not enjoyed an enviable reputation for many years on the manner in which it is kept. Just now, as in other years, it is dangerous.

Having enjoyed (?) too for many years the benefits of a wading pool in front of the office, we are quite in accord with those many citizens who urge a program of raising the sidewalks on certain blocks on Mill Street, where they are below the street level. Perhaps a block a year would not be too big a program to pay for out of current revenue.

Revenue and Spending Up

Total ordinary revenue of the Dominion Government in the first eleven months of the current fiscal year amounted to \$478,682,657, compared with \$456,929,418 in the corresponding period the previous fiscal year, the Comptroller of the Treasury reported this week. Special receipts brought the grand total to \$478,797,032, compared with \$457,454,955.

Total ordinary expenditures amounted to \$336,592,644, compared with \$347,626,695. When capital, special and other expenditures are added, the grand total of expenditures amounted to \$518,917,440, compared with \$445,689,465 in the corresponding period the previous fiscal year.

There was \$85,480,701 expended from the \$100,000,000 special war appropriation plus \$9,571,818 listed as ordinary expenditure of the National Defense Department. The ordinary expenditure of the Department was \$28,119,213 in the previous year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Not an acclamation in the present election. Over 600 candidates will seek the 245 seats available. It looks as if the majority will be disappointed.

Retail sales of gasoline in Canada during the first eleven months of 1939 amounted to 752,241,000 gallons, compared with 714,220,000 gallons in the corresponding period of 1938.

Congratulations! Council passed a resolution at last meeting, authorizing purchase of chairs for the Town Hall auditorium. They were in the hall before the end of the week and in use. A splendid start.

During the first four weeks of 1940, Canada's ten sugar refineries manufactured 54,728,38 pounds of refined sugar, of which 47,790,059 pounds were granulated and 6,938,328 pounds; yellow and brown.

Many here thought the new four payment plan of tax paying was quite a change, but in Amherstburg taxes are payable in twelve monthly instalments. Not much difference these between owning and renting—the municipality is the big landlord.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

A man doesn't realize how much credit he has until his children grow up and start charging things to him.—Niagara Falls Review.

If the Toronto Star can lick Mitch Hepburn and the Financial Post can get Ian Mackenzie beaten, these two journals, apparently, will be ready to consider the war ended.—Globe and Mail.

Doctors say that a cold bath every morning is the best way to preserve health, and the editor of Quebec Chronicle wants to know what is the next best way.—Welland-Port Colborne Tribune.

"Apparently March of Time's film, 'Canada at War' can be shown everywhere throughout the world except in Russia, Nazi Germany, and the Province of Ontario."—Louis de Rochemant, producer.

An elaborate plan by which a man may keep his den from being turned into a sewing room is suggested by the Trenton Courier-Advocate. The simplest way of keeping a den a den is to stay in it and growl.—Toronto Star.

School teachers who are anxious about their voting status in the coming Federal election will be pleased to know they may vote where their parents live or in the district where they teach, provided, of course, their names are on the voters' list. It must be pointed out, naturally, in cases of teachers not far away from home, that they are expected to cast only one vote!—Hanover Post.

A man is no hero to his wife or to his valet. Apparently Hitler is none to his dentist, for Dr. Martin Buechler, who died recently, has described him as "the most cowardly patient I ever had." "On one occasion," says Dr. Buechler, "he actually fainted with fright, and vigorous man as he is, the very sight of a pair of forceps would make him behave like a nervous wreck."—London despatch.

Ontario News of the Week

By Murdie McDonald

While Liberals parade figures to show that Canada's war job is being carried on efficiently and Conservatives trot out claims and instances to prove otherwise, last week it was Ontario which created surface ripples on the current of public opinion—personified by its Premier, Mitchell Hepburn.

True to the prediction made in this column two weeks ago, the fighting Premier of this Province is again very active in the political picture of the country. Almost any other man would have been stumped by the predicament Mr. Hepburn slipped into, with his cabinet ministers and followers in the House voting for his resolution of censure against the King government one day, and out on the hustings supporting King candidates a few days later. But not Mr. Hepburn.

Dismissing the awkward situation with the laconic words, "No comment" he slips into the shadow of private life for a week or so and then diverts attention with two sensational moves. First he bans the showing of "The March of Time" in all Ontario theatres, on grounds that it gives an unfair impression of Canada's war effort to date, and might be considered political propaganda in behalf of Mackenzie King. And while the public is still in animated discussion about the censorship ban, Mr. Hepburn fires another broadside, a charge that several hundred R.C.A.F. men at the St. Thomas school walked out of the establishment, disgruntled because they were getting no training.

The merits of the Ontario Premier's claims may be left for others to judge. Where several hundred men are involved in the allegations made about the St. Thomas training school, the truth must come out sooner or later. The claim that "The March of Time" constitutes a bit of propaganda for the King government may be right, may be wrong.

But there is one important point that Mr. Hepburn has overlooked. He has not realized, apparently, the temper of the Canadian reaction against measures which deprive them of their self-determined right of freedom. True, citizens and business organizations have submitted to government action by which certain public information is hidden from them, through which they have surrendered authority to government departments. But all this has been accepted on the distinct understanding that this is a temporary provision, carried out for the sole purpose of beating the enemy which would take such rights away from them permanently.

So that Mr. Hepburn would have been better advised to withhold his ban on the moving picture, because his action smacks of this regimentation which doesn't sit well with the people unless they see it is absolutely necessary. His position would have been much stronger to-day, if he had released "The March of Time" under protest, pointing out vehemently if he liked all the unfairness he believed the picture contained.

"Don't let the highways down!" is a slogan appearing on the Canadian horizon, as the huge cost of the war suggests economy in ordinary peace time activities. In the forefront with those who see that tourist traffic from the United States must be sought with renewed vigor, in these days when tourist revenue is so badly needed to offset that war cost, is Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Ontario Minister of Highways. Addressing members of the Ontario Motor League last week, he asked the League to press upon the Federal authorities the absolute need of moderate expenditures on highway development for the maintenance of Canada's profitable tourist trade.

The Minister said the roads must be kept in good shape and free from dust if the Dominion hoped to attract the cream of the tourist traffic from across the border.

There has been a heavy increase in the number of marriages since the declaration of war, but if as to keep pace, the divorce toll has also been quite big. According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, over 2,000 divorces were granted in 1939, as compared with 1,885 in 1938, and 1,870 in 1937.

MUSKRATS PLENTIFUL IN POINT PEELE NATIONAL PARK

With the marshes of Point Pelee National Park and adjoining district literally covered with muskrat houses, local trappers are looking forward to a good catch this year. A recent survey of the marshes in the park indicates that there are two muskrat houses this year for every one last year. The marshes which extend far beyond the park boundaries are outstanding as natural breeding grounds for muskrats.

Extensive trapping operations are carried on each year in Essex County, Ontario, outside the park boundaries, while in the park a restricted amount of muskrat trapping has been permitted as a park conservation measure under the supervision of the park superintendent. Last year more than 3,000 muskrats were taken in the park marshes without injury to the colony.

A NAVY IS BORN

Britain Built's Ireland's First Warship

A navy born on the River Thames when a pennant was hoisted in a coastal motor torpedo boat alongside a pier at Chelsea, two miles above London Bridge. It was the first warship ever to belong to Eire (the Irish Free State) and Mr. J. Dulany, the High Commissioner, took delivery of it on behalf of the Eire Government by sending the pennant fluttering to the masthead.

The historic little ceremony took place in the presence of Commander Dumphy, R.N., Naval Adviser to the Eire Defence Minister, and Sir John Thornycroft, head of the world-famous firm of warship constructors, which built the craft at their Hampton-on-Thames shipyard, a few miles further up the river.

The vessel, to be known as M 1, is the first of six which have been ordered by the Eire Government to make their neutrality effective by patrolling their coast. The torpedo boat will have a speed of 50 miles an hour, and will carry depth charges as well as torpedoes.

There is no record that the Irish, although islanders, ever possessed any sort of national fleet, though it is possible that some of the ancient warships known as "currachs" which carried raiders to Britain thirteen centuries ago, were owned by the Kings of that turbulent period. And now Britain is making warships for the Irish.

They are never alone that are accompanied by noble thoughts.—Sir Phillip Sidney.

Business Directory

MEDICAL

DR. J. A. McNIVEN Physician and Surgeon Office and Residence—Corner Bowen Avenue and Elgin Street.

DR. E. J. NELSON Physician and Surgeon Electro Therapy Phone 148

DR. WM. G. CULLEN, L. M. C. C. Physician and Surgeon Office Hours—1-4 and 7-9 p.m. Sundays by Appointment Mill Street, near Frederick Street Telephone 128

DRS. FRED AND STEVENSON CAMPBELLVILLE Phone—Milton 2353 — After 10 p.m. Milton 2W Office Hours: 8-9 a.m., 1-3 p.m., 7-8 p.m. Sundays by Appointment only

LEGAL

C. F. LEATHERLAND, B. A. Barrister and Solicitor; Notary Public Insurer of Marriage Licenses Registrar of Births, Marriages, Deaths ACTON Office 22 Phones Residence 153

KENNETH M. LANGDON Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public Office: Georgetown—Gregory Theatre Building ACTON—Over T. Seynuck's Cafe For Appointments Phone Acton 65—on Georgetown 68

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

DENTAL

A. J. BUCHANAN, D. D. S. Dental Surgeon Office: In Leishman Block Hours: 9 a. m. until 6 p. m. Evenings by Appointment Gas for Extractions X-Ray Closed Wednesday Afternoon Phone 148

P. W. PEAREN, D. D. S., L. D. S. Dental Surgeon Office in the Symon Block Phone 29 Mill Street, Acton

VETERINARY

B. D. YOUNG, V.S., B.V.Sc. Veterinary Surgeon Office: Brookville, Ontario Phone—Milton 1464

F. G. OAKES, V.S., B.V.Sc. Veterinary Surgeon Office and Residence — Knox Avenue Acton — Phone 136

AUCTIONEERS

FRANK PETCH Auctioneer and Representative Commercial Life Assurance Co. Phone 617 3, Georgetown GEORGETOWN P. O.

ROBERT T. AMOS Auctioneer MOFFAT, ONTARIO For services that satisfy, at prices that please. Wide acquaintance. Oueph phone 17072. Phone date, my expense.

TIME TABLES

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

AT ACTON STANDARD TIME

Table with 2 columns: Direction (Going East, Going West) and Time (Daily, except Sunday, Saturday only, Sunday only, Flyer, at Georgetown, Flyer, at Guelph). Times range from 6:45 a.m. to 9:41 p.m.

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GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON Standard Time

EASTBOUND To Toronto 8:51 a.m., 9:11 a.m., 12:01 p.m., 2:06 p.m., 4:21 p.m., 6:31 p.m., 8:46 p.m.

WESTBOUND To London 10:23 a.m., 11:38 a.m., 2:23 p.m., 3:13 p.m., 5:03 p.m., 7:18 p.m., 8:14 p.m., 11:23 p.m., 12:08 a.m.

a—except Sun. and Hol.; b—Sun. and Hol.; c—Sat. only; d—except Sat., Sun. and Hol.; e—Sat., Sun. and Hol.; x—to Kitchener; y—to Stratford

Wife Preservers



When "coming or heading" buy a sponge in a manner of water close by. It can be used for giving extra dampness to articles, for opening seams or spreading collars and cuffs.

EDITORIAL

Just Two in Halton

Nominations are over and the electorate in Halton now are assured that the election here is for only two candidates, Liberal and National. Knowing both Mr. Cleaver and Mr. Atkins personally, we were not surprised that their addresses on Nomination Day were confined to election issues and devoid of all personalities. We would be surprised, indeed, if either of the Halton candidates would bring personalities into the election. In that respect we are fortunate.

Meetings are being held, and the last few weeks and days the campaign seems to be warming up a little. THE FREE PRESS has, as indicated at the outset, carried the messages of both parties. We will continue to do so for this or any other election.

We have warned voters to make sure the names are on the lists. Now we urge every voter to go and use your franchise. Don't wait at home for a car to drive you to the polling booth. It is your duty to vote. It is your duty to consider seriously how you can cast that ballot in the best interests of Canada. Never was there a time when you should give more consideration to that vote than now. Canada is at war.

Ontario's Encyclopedia

That very informational and interesting volume of Municipal Statistics, as compiled by the Department of Municipal Affairs, came to hand last week. Of course all the figures are for the year 1938. According to this compilation, Acton's population decreased by about 40 in the year under survey.

The tax arrears may be a problem to Council here, but it is worthy of note that at \$4.16 per capita it is the lowest in towns in the County, with Milton hitting the highest at \$18.41. Milton, however, has the lowest debt of any of the towns, with Oakville the highest, and our own municipality the second lowest.

Perhaps you may wonder, too, how taxes compare throughout the County and here we find that Acton ratepayers have nothing about which to complain. The rate in Acton is \$21.10 per capita. The high for the County is in Oakville, at \$40.01; Burlington is \$37.59; Georgetown, \$27.07; and Milton, \$22.27. Taken in proportion to population, Acton, therefore enjoys the lowest rate of any of the urban centres.

In 1938, Milton had 5.9 per cent. of its population on relief; Burlington was next, with 4.4; Acton third, with 4.1; Georgetown fourth, with 1.9 and Oakville with .9.

Turning to the Townships, we find Trafalgar's population is 4,367; Nelson, 3,669; Esqueness, 3,221; and Nassagaweya, 1,810.

The eighty-seven pages of this book, with inserts, gives about all the answers to the affairs of municipalities of the Province. Every time we receive a copy we do not wonder that it is nearly a year in preparation. The one for 1938 is complete again. We could go on at length, giving figures from it, but it is referred to many times in each year as the occasion arises and proves almost as necessary as an encyclopedia.

Mill Street Needs More Attention

We are still of the opinion that the streets and roadway on Mill Street are due for more attention and that there is room for improvement in winter conditions. Just as long as a high ridge of snow is accumulated on each side of the road and passage to the catch basins is thereby stopped, we will always have icy conditions for a longer period in the late winter and spring than prevail in most centres. A

River Platte Heroes Decorated by the King



The victory of three English cruisers over the Nazi pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee, last December off Uruguay, was re-lived and cheered in London when King George decorated officers and men who'd figured in the engagement. In this radio photo King George, at left, presents a Distinguished Service Cross to Lieut. N. K. Todd, of the cruiser Ajax. From Right to Left are: Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty; Prime Minister, Chamberlain; Admiral Sir Alfred Dudley Pound, First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff; and Capt. F. S. Bell (holding paper), of the Exeter.