



The Acton Free Press

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The Public's Business

Sometimes citizens do not realize the part the press plays in giving news of public business. For instance, the press in Acton for a number of years has sent a representative to Council, Public Utilities and School Board meetings.

It is interesting, therefore, to read of what happens in other towns where the press is not allowed to become familiar with public meetings. In Ferguson, a woman who has been holding responsible municipal positions is serving a sentence for a misappropriation of public funds.

The public has paid heavily for this procedure in the shortages which have been revealed. There's generally something wrong when the public are denied information about their own business.

In Smith Falls, the School Board voted \$50 each to members to attend a convention in Toronto. The appropriation was made when the press was absent from the meeting, but, like other things, leaked out later and is aired fully in this week's Record-News.

Actonians Away from Home

One of the incidents we greatly enjoy when attending conventions is meeting former Actonians and learning of their activities in the adopted city. Convention programs never allow time to visit any of these friends in their homes or to arrange to meet them.

We knew there were several Actonians in Windsor, and wondered how many we might chance to meet. The first chance meeting was with one who did not reside in Windsor. We were made acquainted with Dr. James Tallman. It was a strange name to us until we recalled Jimmie Tallman, who acquired his High School education here, back in 1918 or thereabouts.

Saturday afternoon the chapters of the I.O.F.E. were holding a fashion show at the Prince George Hotel. Knowing of the activities of Mrs. Wm. Laird in this work we made inquiry if she were present.

Windsor Star had carried a list of those attending, which she had read. Between newspaper convention activities and a few moments Mrs. Laird could spare we managed to talk over incidents concerning Acton. Mrs. Laird was presiding at a table at this social function of the I.O.F.E. in Windsor.

We learned of the activities of many other Actonians from these conversations. But wherever one may go there are to be found those from the same town and it is most interesting to learn of the part they are taking in the world to-day. We have yet to meet in convention in a community where some one from Acton is not to be encountered.

On the Same Couch

Like many other folks, we do not use the railway for as frequent trips as was the case a few years ago. We, therefore, can perhaps see things more readily and see a story while riding a train. One must do something to put in the time, and what interesting glimpses one gets of life from the contacts on a train.

For instance, the other night coming from Windsor, our seat companion was an elderly lady, who had been in Detroit to visit a sister. This Detroit sister, who was 87, had broken her hip and it was feared she would not last long. The parting of the two sisters had been sad. In contrast, the lady who occupied the seat adjoining Mrs. Dills had been to Detroit to see a new grandchild. The baby was a fine healthy girl, and the grandmother was returning to her home, quite elated. Sunshine and shadow both travelling from the same city.

At another stop along the line a wedding party boarded the train, amidst showers of confetti and sent off on a honeymoon by the usual bevy of friends who were thoroughly enjoying the occasion, as were the bride and groom. It was a jolly group. Overhauled on the station platform, and unnoticed by most, was a little group of four. The father was in the air force. The little lad, about two or three, had a similar uniform on. The train came in and the man in the service of his country gave a hasty farewell to the little chap and his wife, and strode for the train. Some way, the hearing indicated that both man and wife were fighting a battle to make no outward sign of how the parting hurt. The little three-year old waved a farewell to daddy. Two couples, one starting in the sunshine and one going through the shadows. Yes, even a railway coach has its mirror of life.

More Trees

Last week a tree planting project got under way when Halton County started the planting of 30,000 trees on a ninety-three acre farm in Nassagaweya. It is hoped this is only the start of such plantings. Last week Acton Council received an offer from "The Men of the Trees" to supply good-sized trees of the ornamental type, if a request was sent in. Council were a little handicapped to know what organization should undertake this work.

The west section of the Park needs a considerable planting and there are sections of our streets that would be greatly improved with a few additional trees. For the lack of an organization to handle the offer we hope it will not be passed up. Surely any one of our community-minded organizations can head up the task and arrange to secure the trees and plant them. Such work will bring remembrance of those who undertake it for years to come. Council has the letter and details. Make inquiry from the Clerk, Reeve or Council. Let's make a start on tree planting in 1940 and continue each year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Spring and Daylight Saving Time synchronized pretty well this year.

Production of radio receiving sets in Canada during 1939 totalled 348,507 sets, valued at \$8,678,130.

Have yet to hear any important fish stories, but then perhaps those who enjoyed fishing over the week-end are a little backward in mentioning their success.

Perhaps some folks with a memory that goes back a few years can recall when Daylight Saving Time caused quite a local confusion. Most of us are thankful that period is over.

There'll be no need to keep that extra radio set hidden now. One radio license is all that is now required for the sets installed in any private residence. You need an extra one if you have a receiver in your car.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

"We will win this war by equality in physical factors plus a spiritual element."—Brigadier General C. W. Odlum.

When hens laid in the spring, as nature intended, eggs were a good price all winter long. Now that hens have been tricked into laying all winter the best price for eggs is some other time. Poultry raisers must feel the same about it as a seasoned producer who exclaimed, years ago, that "The packers want the kind of cattle the farmer ain't got."—Farmer's Advocate.

Ontario News of the Week

By Muriel McDonald

Unquestionably one of the highlights of the impending session of Canada's new parliament will be the report of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial relations. When first appointed, this committee was headed by the then Chief Justice Newton W. Rowell, and was best known as the Rowell Commission. On his retirement through ill-health, the chairmanship passed to Dr. Joseph Brant, of Quebec, and the Commission became known as the Brant Commission.

This Commission held inquiries all over Canada into differences between the Provinces and the Dominion in regard to their respective fields of jurisdiction in legal and constitutional matters and in regard to fields of taxation, and it was evident that what was really under way was a broad review of the working-out of the pact of Confederation itself.

The report of this Commission is therefore of prime importance to the members of the new Parliament and may have very far-reaching effects in leading the way toward revisions of the relationships established between Provinces and the Dominion by the British North America Act, which is Canada's constitution.

Details of the report have been kept a closely guarded secret, but from our sources at Ottawa we are enabled to do a little long-range forecasting which won't be found very wide of the mark when at last the report and recommendations are disclosed.

To begin with, it will not, we feel sure, directly recommend that Parliament pass resolutions asking that the British Parliament amend the B.N.A. What it will do is to point out problems, set forth solutions, express itself as favorably toward some of these solutions, oppose others, renew the knotty problem of revenues and taxation and then recommend the calling of a constitutional conference. All Provinces and the Dominion will be called to this at this conference if the recommendation is adopted by the Federal Government, and every point referred to in the Commission's report will be thoroughly threshed out. As a result, Parliament may then legislate of itself where it has the authority, and may ask the British Parliament to amend the B.N.A. where that course is required, to give effect to any changes agreed upon by the Constitutional Conference.

Probing a little deeper below the surface, we would not be surprised if, in regard to three, perhaps four, of the Provinces problems would be divulged which will require both a political and a financial solution. In the Provinces we have in mind Ontario is not one of them. The causes and sources of their financial difficulties are such that war will not help but can only accentuate the troubles. Hence the solution may imperatively require political action of a highly important character. It may be that Canada's war parliament may find itself in a position where it will have to grasp boldly a nettle which, if touched too gingerly, may sting considerably. Wrestling with internal problems during a war is no easy matter, but if national unity is promoted thereby, the wrestling will have been worth while.

We mentioned in the column last week some other important things which the new MP's will have to face. Among them, the question of investigation of war contracts. It takes time to swing over from a peace to a war economy and some of the processes may have seemed pretty substantial in spots. But, by now, plenty of war contracts have been let. Some contracts prior to the war, but of a military nature, have been cancelled, but whether those, let since, call for light seems doubtful. There is bound to be an opposition demand for full details of essential war contracts to be disclosed to parliament, except where such details would aid the enemy. But it does not look as though much such disillusioning will feature the session. Nevertheless, we have a free parliament, members have real rights, and the opportunity for investigation certainly is there, if members see fit to seize it. So anything may happen.

TORONTO FACTORY TURNS OUT BREX GUNS

Had you been standing in the vicinity of a Toronto manufacturing plant a few weeks ago you might have heard a new and strange sound arising above the normal hum of industrial activity.

It was the staccato bark of a Bren machine gun and the burst of firing was the signal of a new Canadian accomplishment — an accomplishment which may take on more and more significance before the war is over.

The machine gun that fired that first round was made in its entirety from raw Canadian steel, tempered and treated by Canadian experts, fashioned into its intricate shape by the hands of Canadian workmen.

Today, and for many months to come, hundreds of Canadian brothers of this, the world's most modern and efficient light machine gun, will travel from the assembly-line. They will fire their first bursts on the plant's testing range and be handed over to the forces of Canada and the Motherland to play their part in winning the Allies' eventual victory.

The story of how these complicated weapons were taken from the drafting boards of Europe and put into Canadian production is one of the most interesting in the annals of Canadian industrial history.

The vast majority of our Canadian workmen, it must be remembered, had never before worked on the production of machine guns, or any other kind of light weapon, for that matter. When the Canadian concern was given its contract, it was allowed two years in which to prepare itself for actual production of guns, because military authorities here and in England will realize the tremendous difficulties to be faced in setting up the necessary manufacturing facilities.

However, thanks to the skill and versatility of Canadian workmen and engineers, the guns went into production a full five months ahead of the allotted time.

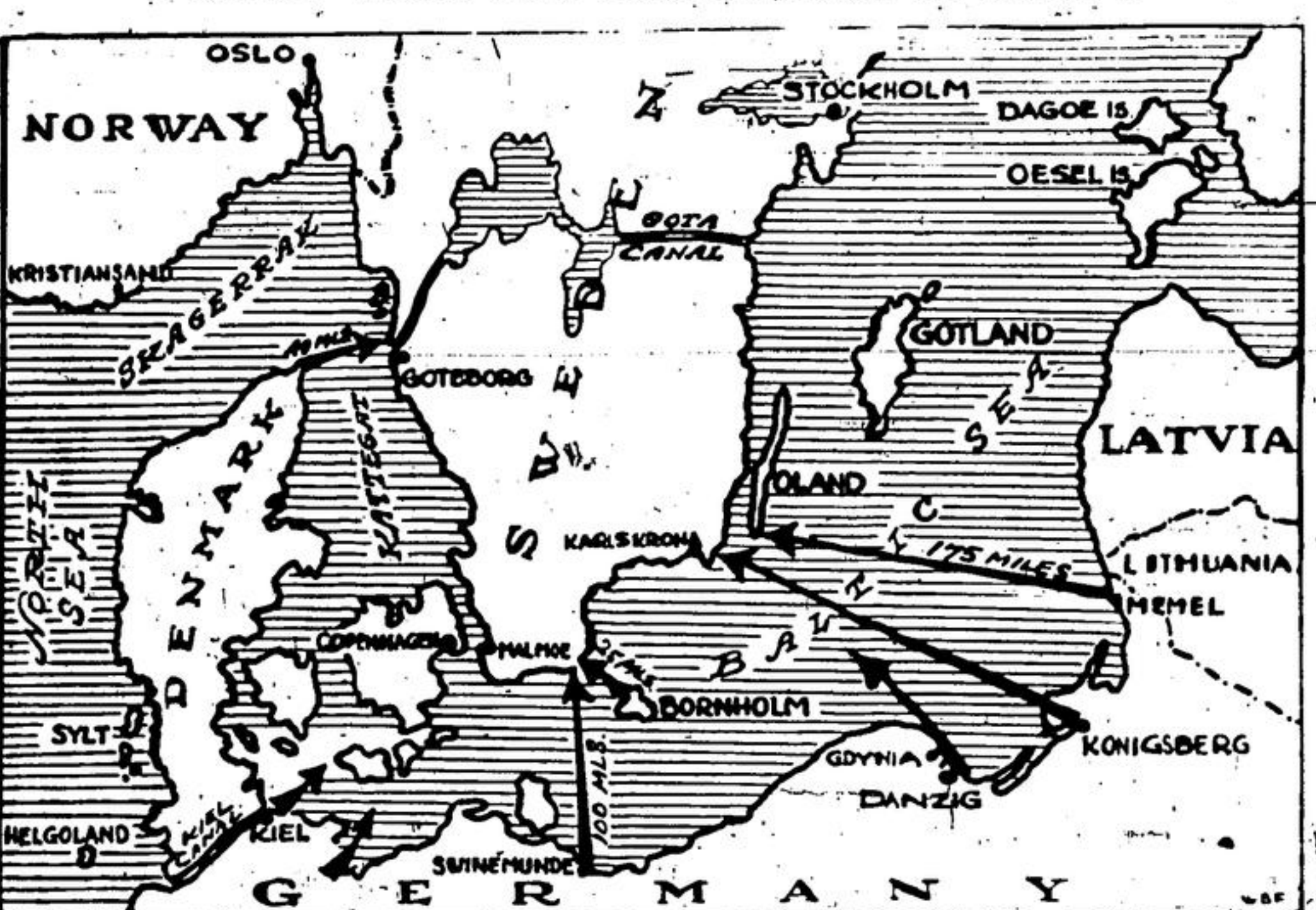
The first gun to come off the line was expected to contain many faults, subsequently to be corrected by adjustments to machines and increased experience on the part of the workmen themselves.

"Only last year in India" boomed the club here. "I suddenly found myself face to face with a man-eating tiger." "And only last week" murmured the quiet little man in the corner. "In a restaurant, I found myself face to face with a man eating fish."

SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK By R. J. SCOTT



Possible Routes for Nazi Invasion of Sweden



Polishing reports that Germany is preparing troops and ships at ports opposite Sweden, the Swedish Government is watching to see what the next move of Chancellor Hitler will be. If Der Fuhrer should decide to invade Sweden, the Allies have prepared a plan in Sweden. In the event that Germany launches an attack on Sweden, the above map shows possible routes and objectives of the Nazi armed forces.

Business Directory

MEDICAL

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

DR. E. J. NELSON Physician and Surgeon Electro Therapy Phone 80

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. FREED AND STEVENSON CAMPBELLVILLE Phone Milton 23573—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 Issuer of Marriage Licenses Registrar of Births, Marriages, Deaths ACTON Office 22 Phone Residence 181

KENNETH M. LANGDON Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public Office Georgetown—Gregory Theatre Building ACTON Over T. Seynuck's Cafe For Appointments Phone Acton 65-06 Georgetown 88 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 Leblanc Block Hours 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Evenings by Appointment (Over T. Seynuck's) X-Ray (Over Wainwright's) Afternoon Phone 148

P. W. PEARMAN, D. D. S., D. S. L. D. S. Dental Surgeon Office 15 The Bynon Block Phone 29 Mill Street, Acton

VETERINARY

B. D. YOUNG, V.S., B.V.Sc. Veterinary Surgeon Office Brookville, Ontario Phone Milton 14674

F. G. OAKES, V.S., B.V.Sc. Veterinary Surgeon Office and Residence Knox Avenue Acton Phone 130

AUCTIONEERS

FRANK PETCH Auctioneer and Representative Commercial Life Assurance Co. Phone 61-3 Georgetown, GEORGETOWN P. O.

ROBERT T. AMOS Auctioneer MORFAT, ONTARIO For service that satisfies, at price that pleases. Wide acquaintance. Graspful phone 17202. Phone date, my expense.

TIME TABLES

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

AT ACTON STANDARD TIME

Going East

Table with 2 columns: Train Name and Time. Rows include Daily except Sunday, Saturday only, Sunday only, etc.

Going West

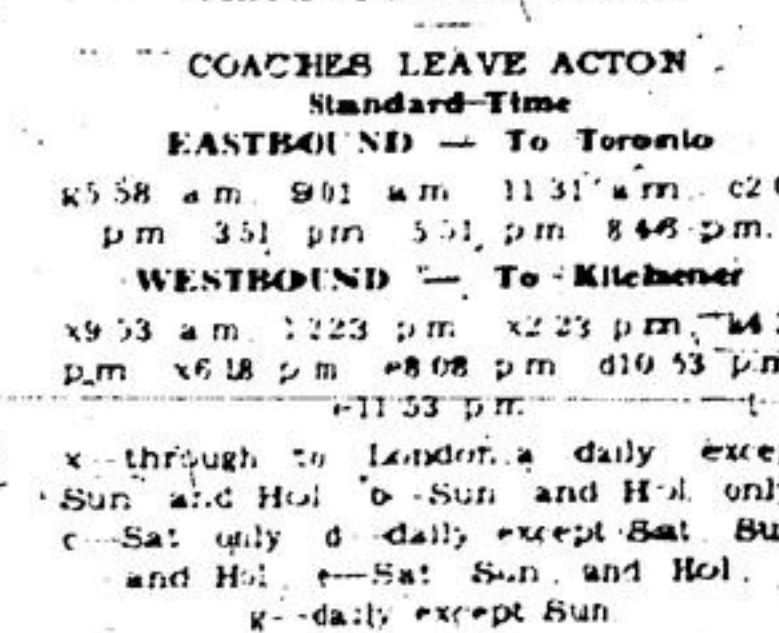
Table with 2 columns: Train Name and Time. Rows include Daily except Sunday, Saturday only, Sunday only, etc.

GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON Standard Time

Table with 2 columns: Direction and Time. Rows include EASTBOUND - To Toronto, WESTBOUND - To Kitchener.

Wife Preservers



To help keep your family safe, use our every two weeks in salt and water... Always have between two and three...