



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor

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Children and Christmas

We appreciated the many kindly remarks last week regarding the Christmas issue of THE FREE PRESS. That front page illustration of Santa Claus somehow had an appeal and brought recollections of our own boyhood days. We recall that the most popular advertisement in THE FREE PRESS was one published by G. D. Pringle, of Guelph, and its popularity was based on the picture it had of Santa Claus, on the roof top about to descend a chimney. Advertisements weren't so freely illustrated in those days. But we've always intended to find that old cut some day and preserve it.

Then, too, windows with toys were not as plentiful in those days as they are now. It was a real event when the window of George Hynds was dressed with the Christmas stock. From four o'clock until the stock diminished (usually the night before Christmas) it was difficult to get standing room in front of that window. Frosting over simply ruined that day. Later Wm. Stark put in a stock of mechanical toys in the section of C. C. Speight's shop which he shared. One could get quite reminiscent on those boyhood recollections.

Perhaps it is well to recall them and realize that Christmas to-day in the lives of the boys and girls does mean the same big event that it meant in your boyhood or girlhood days.

Facts or Excuses

In January Acton will inaugurate a system of municipal garbage collection. It will be a benefit to the householder, the tenant and property-owner alike. It will be paid for from the general rate of taxation. We have met arguments that this is unfair and that the cost should be assessed on the householder, who deserves the benefit.

The argument has some merit when it becomes a reality. If taxes are increased by Council as a result of this, or any other municipal service, the landlord is quite justified in passing this additional cost on to the tenant for the extra service received. But until that cost is added we can see no justification for making the tenant pay a charge which has not yet been made.

No property owner will be called on to pay more money for any municipal service until next April. Until the estimates are made, no one—not even Council—knows that there will be any increase in the amount of taxes collected on property.

Let's look at the cost that should be levied, in any instance, if the complete item is paid for by the householder. Many of the small rented houses in Acton are not assessed for over \$1,000. On those houses garbage collection will cost exactly 9 1/2c per month, but a rental increase of 10c per month would be easy reckoned.

Houses that are assessed for \$2,000 will bring an added burden to the property owner of 19c per month. The tenant, we presume, would not object to a rental increase of 25c per month for this added service. These are the figures. Any increases of rent made on the excuse at the present time of the added cost of garbage collection are only excuses. Any increases beyond the actual cost are chargeable to some other cause—possibly the need for greater return on the investment in the property. But let's face the facts.

Misquoted?

We noted the other day one of our editorial items made the subject of a rather lengthy letter to The Globe and Mail. Our surprise was that it was used

in exactly the opposite thought in which it was written. We said that Canadians were not fully conscious of the seriousness of the war and went on to explain how everyone could help—even children.

The letter writer used the comment to tell at some length of the laxity of the government in making Canadians war-conscious. Are we as a people so helpless that we require governments to bestir in us our sense of self-preservation? We make no apologies for the short-comings of any government, that is their own particular task, but we do feel that if we, as Canadians, have become so soft as to lay this accusation on the doorsteps of our governments, that democracy has had a serious failure.

The war effort is a sharing of a common task by all Canadians. If it is to be a "buck-passing" game it will fail. Some can help a great deal—others can only contribute in a small way—but let's all meet the situation, ready to do the bit that we can.

Those in direction at this time are slipping out under the strain of leadership. Chamberlain, Lord Lothian and Hon. Norman Rogers are among those that come to mind at the moment, who went down under the war-load. Leaders are hard to replace. We, the common people, can make their task lighter by assuming our share. It may seem small but it is important.

Again we say democracy is on trial on the home front as well as the battle front.

The Ambitious Town

In some towns people seem satisfied to let everything drift along just as it was. They hide behind excuses to keep themselves from doing work for improvement. If a man has a disorderly back yard, he says it is as good as the one owned by some neighbor. Or if his fences are all tumbling down, he says they have always been that way, and he has got along all right.

A town like that will not merely stand still, but it will gradually fall behind. The ambitious town is not satisfied to let things drift. It's people travel around, they see fine looking towns with handsome streets, nice homes, and progressive looking business centres. They come home discontented with unsatisfactory conditions, and they take off their coats and go to work to improve those conditions.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Less than a week—just five days and only four of them shopping days—and then—Christmas.

Don't put off for another day your Christmas shopping or your Christmas mailing. The interval has few days left.

With the longest possible Christmas holiday for the schools, those Christmas presents should really be of substantial construction.

Production of the aircraft industry in Canada during 1939 was valued at \$12,638,470 as against \$6,927,105 in the preceding year.

Those letters from friends in the Old Land which we have been permitted to publish from time to time do give an intimate picture of what is being endured there these days.

Cheques cashed by the chartered banks of Canada against individual accounts totalled \$22,082,000,000 in the eight-month period ended August, 1940, as compared with \$19,900,000,000 a year ago.

We won't say Merry Christmas again this week. We'll have another chance before the big day. THE FREE PRESS will be issued next week on Tuesday so that the editor and staff can enjoy the mid-week holiday.

If you feel that holding your Christmas under such splendid peaceful circumstances as we in Canada enjoy is really worth something. Why not take what you think it is worth and invest it in War Savings Certificates or Stamps, to help keep it.

Huntsville licensed slot machines, and received fees of \$3,100 this year. In the municipal elections on December 2nd, candidates, who were members of the 1940 Council and opposed to the issuance of the licenses, were preferred by the electors. The hint will probably be acted upon and the Muskoka town, as far as these gambling devices go, may be put in a class termed "clean". The large income of 1940 is evidently with the electors of the town no argument for a continuance of an obvious evil.—Collingwood Bulletin.

One of those fellows who gives his money upon usury, and take reward against the innocent was fined \$100 after being convicted of charging 6 per cent. a month for several years. From time to time this practice of preying upon young people who find themselves in a tight place is discovered and the guilty fined a small sum. The fine is paid and as a rule the business is resumed as soon as another victim is found. Stiffer sentences should be imposed upon every one convicted of such robbery.—Brampton Conservator.

The Week at OTTAWA

Specially Written for The Acton Free Press by JOHN DAUPHINEE Canadian Press Staff Writer

Ottawa, December 18th (CP)—One of the biggest problems for Canadian farmers to solve these days is how to produce enough butter and cheese to meet domestic needs and the demands of the United Kingdom market.

Butter production is the big domestic worry for the Dominion's Department of Agriculture—and the War-time Prices and Trade Board is concerned about the situation, too. There is some talk that butter rationing might be necessary some time in the future, although it probably will extend only to ice cream and candy making.

The butter situation came out into the open with bang last week. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported that the Dominion's stocks at November 30th totalled 41,768,000 pounds—7,700,000 pounds less than at the same date last year.

At the same time the Bureau said the domestic disappearance of butter in November was 24,700,000 pounds, nearly 3,000,000 pounds more than in the same month of 1939.

Increased purchasing power in Canada because of mushrooming war industries is believed responsible for the bigger consumption. In addition, more cream is being consumed, cutting down the amount available for butter making.

Spring Shortage?

The War-time Prices and Trade Board emphasizes that the situation is not yet particularly serious. Spokesmen say any rationing of butter should be considered only as a possibility of the future, not a probability. If any shortage occurs, it probably will be in the early spring, and last only until herds are put out to spring pasture.

Rationing of butter for luxury use is one possible method for dealing with any shortage, officials point out. Another method to meet the situation would be to allow the price of butter to rise, thus bringing about an automatic curtailment of consumption. However, this is not considered likely, since the Prices and Trade Board recently suggested the price of butter might be set if a trend toward increased price continued.

Importation of stocks from the United States would be a solution to the situation, but this is very improbable since one of Canada's chief aims at present is to conserve all possible foreign exchange for purchases of war supplies across the border.

The cheese situation is tied in with the butter problem to some extent. Increased manufacture of cheese to meet the larger British demands under the 1940-41 foodstuffs agreements is diverting some milk from butter production.

Need More Milk

J. F. Singleton, a dairy expert with the Department of Agriculture, bluntly told a meeting of Federal and Provincial officials that 640,000,000 pounds more milk will have to be produced next year to meet all demands on the dairy industry.

For weeks now the Dominion Department has been urging farmers not to slaughter milk cows during the winter. It is estimated that the cattle population will increase only slightly in 1941. Thus, if the required increase is to be attained, it will have to be primarily

through increased production by the 3,400,000 cows now on Canadian farms. The meeting here heard a suggestion that one method of bringing this about would be to provide cheaper feed for Eastern Canada's herds. It was suggested second grade wheat might be purchased in Western Canada and shipped to Ontario and Quebec at reduced freight rates. This suggestion probably will be laid before the Canadian Agriculture Conference, to be held in Toronto next month.

With Parliament in its long Christmas recess and the Dominion-Provincial Conference on the Rowell-Sirois report still almost a month away, activity was limited in the Capital last week. Several Cabinet Council meetings were held, but only one announcement of any major scope was made.

That was, the signature of a supplementary trade agreement with the United States, providing a bigger market in the United States for Canadian silver foxes, black foxes, and fox furs and skins.

Under the agreement, the total United States import quota remained practically unchanged but Canada's share was increased from 58,300 to 70,000 pelts. Additional quotas were set up for part skins and articles made from fox fur, but the Canadian quota in these categories was not announced.

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SKI UNITS BEGIN TRAINING COURSE

Representatives of all parts of the Dominion, prospective military ski instructors are assembled at Lansdowne Park, Ottawa, for a course of instruction, designed to fit them as instructors in their respective units. The syllabus includes both the theoretical and practical sides of the work, and field work goes on concurrently with lectures, and instruction in the care of equipment. One officer and one non-commissioned officer has been sent from nine different infantry regiments, and there are representatives from Camp Borden, Pella, Wawa, and Valcartier, and from the Atlantic Command in general as well as those from Machine Gun, Engineer and Signal, and Infantry training centres and from several Field Companies.

FOUND PEARL IN SKY

Sydney, N.S.W. (CP)—During lunch on the Sydney-Singapore flyingboat, a passenger eating oysters discovered a seed pearl.

WHEAT FOR GREEKS

Canberra (CP)—Prime Minister Menzies has announced Australia will send Greece a free gift of 10,000 tons of wheat.

Business Directory

MEDICAL

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

DR. E. J. NELSON Physician and Surgeon Medical Officer of Health for Acton Electro Therapy PHONE 88

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 CAMPELLVILLE Phone—Milton 2353 After 10 p.m. Miltona 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 Phones Residence 183

KENNETH M. LANGDON Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public Offices: Georgetown—Gregory Theatre Building ACTON—Over T. Seynuck's Cafe For Appointments Phone Acton 65—or 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 Leishman Block Hours: 9 a. m. until 6 p. m. Evenings by Appointment Gas for Extractions X-Ray Closed Wednesday Afternoon Phone 148

VETERINARY

B. D. YOUNG, V.S., B.V.Sc. Veterinary Surgeon Office: Brookville, Ontario Phone—Milton 1484

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 391 Charles Street Georgetown

TIME TABLES

Table with 2 columns: Train Name and Time. Includes CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS AT ACTON STANDARD TIME, GRAY COACH LINES, and EASTBOUND/TO-TORONTO and WESTBOUND-TO-LONDON.

Advertisement for 'Lucky Girl... she's playing Golf TODAY' featuring an illustration of a girl golfing and text promoting 'Evergreen PLAYGROUND' in Vancouver and Victoria.



Advertisement for 'A Merry Christmas!' by F. L. Wright, General Insurance, offering insurance services for every need.

Advertisement for 'War Savings Certificates' with the slogan 'You too can serve—by saving!' and an illustration of a soldier.