The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOW DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

The Functions of the Press

This is one of a series of editorials specially designated to acquaint our readers with the various functions of the Press in a Democratic community.

EDITORIAL No. 6

The Press And Propaganda

One of the ever present dangers in the publishing field is the possibility of becoming a propaganda agency for some group or cause. Editors guard carefully against this possibility, and their efforts to be fair sometimes incur the displeasure of those whose propaganda they refuse to propagate. Of course there are two kinds of propaganda—good and bad. The word propaganda has been abused in the past few years and to the man on the street propaganda now seems to mean exclusively that type of news sent out by the enemy to confuse and confound those who read it.

Propaganda is actually the method adopted for the propagation of doctrines and principles, either religious or secular. If there is such a thing as good propaganda the question naturally arises, why does the newspaper not become a propaganda agency for all propaganda that is good? As a matter of fact the newspaper does become such an agency in a broad sense, but not in just the way that some propagandists would have it. For instance, any religious sect might consider its propaganda good, and therefore entitled to space in the newspaper. An important factor is overlooked however, in this reasoning. Propaganda espoused and supported by a newspaper must be of a type generally beneficial to the community as a whole. It would not be fair or ethical to use the propaganda of one church, where there are perhaps half a dozen churches in the same community.

Then too, there is often confusion of the minds of many people as to what is news and what is propaganda. For instance, an item relating to an actual event which took place in a church, or a lodge, or a service club would be news. On the other hand an item which sought to impress the reader with the principles or the doctrine of the organization would be propaganda. In short propaganda is that type of newsmatter which seeks to proselytize or convert the reader to one particular code of ethics, principles or doctrine.

The position of the newspaper is clear on this point. The newspaper is representative of the whole community, and while its editor or publisher might be an Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, United Churchman, or Roman Catholic, it would not be fair to give undue prominence to the doctrines of the sect to which he personally belongs. News is another matter. If more news comes from the United Church because it has more organizations, or because its press secretaries are more wide awake, then naturally that church would receive more space in the paper than the Anglican or Baptist if those churches were not so well organized or did not possess good press secretaries.

Weekly newspapers depend to a very large extent upon correspondents and press secretaries for news items, and this being the case it is timely to remind correspondents and secretaries that the newspaper is interested primarily in the news, and not in acting as an agency for the dissemination of their principles. This reasoning however does not preclude the newspaper drawing attention to any special effort made by any organization or institution within the community.

To sum up the attitude of the press toward propaganda it should be clearly understood that the press is interested in the events concerning organizations, rather than the ethics or principles which attract one to membership in these groups.

Mothers

In these war days when so much attention is being given to every effort to bring victory, some of the annual days of observance are apt not to receive the usual attention. But surely Mother's Day next Sunday is not one of these days. True mothers just now may not seem to be fighting a spectacular battle. Maybe the boys in uniform have the spotlight.

But mothers of all lands are fighting a silent but none the less courageous battle these days. In European countries and the British Isles they are in equal danger with the fighting forces. In our own land they see the sons and husbands march away to keep back the hun horde from the shores of this free land, bravely holding back the tears. And when the loved ones have gone, doing their bit to make comforts and send them little extras.

Yes in peace-time mothers are deserving of honor. In war time they are deserving of extra honor. If you boys in active service abroad or in Canada have neglected to write mother for Mother's Day don't let it deter you from writing as you read this and perhaps writing often to make up for the omission of the Mother's Day letter.

Yes, Sunday is Mother's Day. Honor her and her memory. It was Macaulay who wrote this tribute to mothers: "Children, look in those eyes, listen to that dear voice, notice the feeling of even a single touch that is bestowed upon you by that gentle hand! Make much of it while yet you have that most precious of all good gifts, a loving mother. Read the unfathomable love of those eyes; the kind anxiety of that tone and look, however slight your pain. In after life you may have friends fond, dear friends, but never will you have again the inexpressible love and gentleness lavished upon you, which none but a mother bestows."

Mutual Rights

Fatal and serious accidents are going to continue to happen if more care is not used by those riding bicycles. With the speed of the motor cars of to-day, bicyclists when riding on the highway should realize that they must keep to their own side of the road and not weave across the highway or ride abreast if accidents are to be avoided. It doesn't matter how clear the highway may seem. At fifty miles an hour a motor can come into that section in a few seconds.

Traffic laws set forth rules for all on the highways for those riding bicycles as well as motorists. They are for the protection of the cyclist because it is a foregone conclusion that in case of an accident the rider of the bicycle will sustain the most serious injury. We don't want to spoil the fun of young folks but it does seem a word of warning is in order to preserve life and save injury. Read and observe the rules regarding lights and the conduct of bicycle riders on the highway.

Motorists too may well be cautioned. Roadways and highways are for bicycles as well as motor cars. Just because you are behind the wheel of a bigger and stronger machine, you have no right to scatter these riders along the road. You have no right to overtake and pass another vehicle if a bicyclest is meeting you. You haven't the right to blow your horn and put a rider off the road. You both have rights on the highway but in the interest of life and limb use Care, Courtesy and Common sense.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Gold production in Canada during January, 1941, totalled 434,259 ounces compared with 424,381 ounces in January, 1940.

A lot of housewives feel that spring cleaning will have been a useless labor if the dust laying material is not soon applied to the streets about town.

Weekly newspaper editors of Ontario and Quebec will be in annual convention to-morrow and Saturday in Hamilton. The two-day program has a splendid variety of helpful topics and enjoyable and interesting social functions.

"A War Saver" is one who signs up for the duration of the struggle. Don't let your regular savings lag, but rather increase them. It costs $114.82 to equip every Canadian soldier and $5.46 per day to support him while he remains in Canada. Your savings are needed if Britain is to win. Make them bigger if you can.

A report on the printing trade in Canada has just been issued by Ottawa. It does seem to us that an industry that had a gross value of production in 1939 of $119,834,100, with 37,723 employees in this branch should have a decently "printed" report at least. The copy we received has a black block which we guess is supposed to be Canada's official Coat of Arms.

The Week at OTTAWA

Specially Written for The Acton Free Press by
BY LLOYD MACDONALD
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA, (CP) — The House of Commons after spending most of last week on agriculture, particularly the wheat situation, has turned this week to Finance Minister Ilsley's record budget.

Conservative House Leader Hanson, as chief opposition financial critic, led off Monday. As the debate began observers said it seemed likely consideration of the budget would last two weeks or more.

On Friday the Conservative group in the House held a caucus for general discussions and to make final preparations for opening of the budget debate.

Cleared for Debate

The House of Commons slate was cleared for the new debate last Friday by passage of the $35,000,000 vote to finance the wheat acreage reduction plan. The vote was taken unexpectedly, and some members protested they wanted to discuss the wheat policy further, but Mr. Gardiner assured them the regulations could be considered later during discussion of the general agriculture department estimates.

There may be criticism of details of the plan whereby western farmers will be bonused for taking wheat lands out of wheat production, but an endorsation of the general principles involved is on the house books.

The House defeated a Conservative motion of want of confidence, moved by Mark Senn (Con. Haldimand) two weeks before the House adjourned for the Easter recess, and a C.C.F. amendment to the Conservative motion, which urged the government to adopt instead of its announced wheat policy the six-point program endorsed last February by the Saskatchewan Legislature.

One Liberal member, Harry Leader (Lib. Portage La Prairie) joined with the opposition when the amendment came to a vote, but both motion and amendment were defeated by wide margins, the amendment by 134 votes to 40 and the main motion, 128 votes to 44.

Budget Discussion

Even if the budget largest in Canadian history were not to the fore again with opening of the debate it would still be the main topic of discussion. Not only individuals but provincial governments still are studying its implications.

The provinces were asked by Mr. Ilsley to withdraw from the fields of personal and corporation income tax for the duration of the war. At the same time he promised the provinces would be compensated for lost revenue.

For the first time, too, the Dominion decided to step into the field of succession and gasoline taxes, previously collected only by the provinces.

A number of provincial premiers and government authorities plan to come to Ottawa to confer with federal finance officials on the matters involved in the budget proposals.

Mr. Ilsley said his drastic program of tax increases was intended to tap the income of every Canadian and bring an additional $900,000,000 into the nation's war revenues. Personal income tax changes double the amounts payable in lowered income brackets and the national defence tax will be raised so that persons now paying two per cent. of their earnings will pay five after July 1 and those paying three will be assessed seven.

And all this does not include indirect taxes, such as on travel, amusements and a number of products including the women's fields of cosmetics and toilet preparations.

Fatal To Help Norse-British

Death Penalty Provided by Nazis In Norway for this "Offence"

LONDON, (CP) — The Norwegian Government in London claims that Reich Commissioner Terboven has imposed martial law on Norway, in fact but without formal declaration, "in a ruthless form which violates all the principles of international law applying to the activities of an occupying power."

The Quisling puppet government, constituted last September by Terboven in behalf of Hitler, therefore now comes under "protection" of German military law, the government in London claims.

Subject to the death penalty are an "enormous number of offences." In addition to the usual offences such as espionage and sabotage, the death penalty may be applied to "anyone who interrupts or endangers the smooth working of an undertaking which is of importance for the German defence of Norway, or which is important for the Norwegian people's supplies for example, by strikes or any kind."

It applies to "anyone who gives shelter to Englishmen or citizens of their Dominions, colonies, protectorates or mandates, or does them a service of any kind whatsoever."

"Never Mind The Blasted Windows"

How Britain's Shopkeepers Mock The Blitz

In spite of bombs and the black-out, shop window display in Britain has not only continued but actually increased in ingenuity and service. One of the country's leading electrical firms, promptly discovered a substitute for plywood, the usual time foundation of window display in linen stretched taut on wooden frames.

Display settings in linen, it was found, could be folded into small compass. Where, in former days, a van could carry only three or four sets, now it can transport ten times as many.

Instead of leaving wartime window display to the individual dealers, the firm decided to send round experts to do the job. No fewer than 51,000 personal visits have been made to all parts of the country and 95,000 separate pieces of display material have been placed in position.

Bombed shops, with their slogans "More Open Than Ever" or "Never Mind the Blasted Windows. Come In," carry impressive displays showing that the British radio and electrical industry, in spite of all threats, is very much alive and kicking.

Baghdad Dials British

New Telephone Exchange for 5,000 Subscribers

One of the largest public automatic telephone exchanges in the Near East has gone out from Great Britain to Baghdad.

There will be 5,000 subscribers to begin with, but the apparatus and equipment, of the most modern design, will ultimately provide for twice that number.

Selector switches are of the latest British Post Office type and a new exchange building has been built to house the automatic switching plant and trunk switchboards.

Two small automatic exchanges which have been in service for some time will be incorporated in the network of sub-exchanges, with direct functions to the new Central Baghdad exchange.

FROM BASIN TO BUCKET

NEW YORK, (CP) — The basin-type battle helmet of the U. S. soldier is to be scrapped for a bucket-type headgear similar to the German's and weighing 2½ pounds, three ounces more than the present model.

ARE *Your* FARM BUILDINGS IN GOOD CONDITION?

Are you as proud of your farm buildings as you are of your well-conditioned fields, crops and live stock?

It pays in more efficient operation as well as in personal satisfaction to have your farmhouse, barns and other buildings in good repair and well equipped.

If you need money for improvements, you are invited to call upon us. We shall be glad to give you full information.

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TIME-TABLES

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
AT ACTON
STANDARD TIME

Going East

Daily, except Sunday	6.01 a.m.
Daily, except Sunday	9.29 a.m.
Daily, except Sunday	6.28 p.m.
Sunday only	8.19 p.m.
Flyer, at Georgetown	9.11 p.m.
Flyer, at Guelph	9.45 p.m.

Going West

Daily, except Sunday	7.15 a.m.
Saturday only	1.20 p.m.
Flyer, at Guelph	6.46 p.m.
Daily, except Sunday	7.00 p.m.

GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Standard Time

EASTBOUND — To Toronto

a7.58 a.m., 9.04 a.m., 11.31 a.m., e2.00 p.m., 4.31 p.m., 6.31 p.m., 8.56 p.m.

WESTBOUND — To London

9.[illegible] a.m., a12.23 p.m., 2.23 p.m., b4.[illegible] p.m., 6.18 p.m., b8.05 p.m., a10.33 p.m., e11.30 p.m.

a—except Sun. & Hol. b—daily except Sat., Sun. & Hol. e—Saturday & Sun. & Hol. f—except Sun. & Hol. e to Elmira, y to Stratford

HE SHOULD KNOW

[illegible] remarked [illegible] dear. [illegible] after [illegible] words [illegible] only in [illegible] and "Yes, my dear, your vocabulary appears to be small but O heavens the turnover!"

BOND OF DEMOCRACIES

BOSTON, (CP) — Prof. Theodore Siber of Yale University, now in Australia to gather representative Australian art for exhibition in Canada and the United States, has emphasized the effort as "strengthening the bonds between the democracies."