



The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

Objective to Help

The appeal to help the Sick Children's Hospital in London England where the German bombers have not even spared such an institution of mercy grows with the fund. Already the first hundred dollars is in the fund and will soon be on its way and the second hundred is well started. We don't like making objectives, but it does seem that \$500 might go from Acton and district to spur on the spirits of those who carry on amidst the rubble.

The work of the collection of the fund is certainly rich in experiences. Everyone wants to help and with the help of everyone we will have a worth while contribution. The children have contributed their pennies. Ladies organizations have found joy in working for a cause that benefits those who cannot help themselves.

It is such experiences that perhaps even war may play an important part in the lives of this and future generations. There's a bond in this working together that will if continued, maintain a lasting peace. And so the fund goes on without objective as yet as to amount but sending what help we can and knowing that the need is far from being met.

Most of us will never see that bombed Sick Children's Hospital in old London, but some day we may meet some of the children who have been helped through in this trying time. Just as we are told in a letter from a mother who sent in a donation. She wanted to help because her son had been in childhood greatly improved in health through the work of the London Sick Children's Hospital.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of one of these ye have done it unto me."

May the Desire Bear Fruit

It is interesting to note that a settlement is desired by all parties of "the bridge" question that has been a municipal football for years. Just how many years we can not recall at the moment but well over twenty at the least.

We know full well there are rights of two parties connected with the structure. We have heard them rehearsed often enough to know some of them from memory, but we have always held the viewpoint that they were not so big that a settlement was not possible. Certainly nothing can be gained by retaining these differences. We are pleased therefore to see that both the Beardmore Co. and the municipality have a desire to settle the matter and we do hope that the desire will bear fruit.

The Urgency of War Savings

While we are in the presence of a crime without a name, it would be a major tragedy to lose both the war and the peace—that is the ominous probability of a headlong plunge into a period of wartime pleasure spending. A greater degree of saving is an urgent need of the moment.

The cry from all the lips that speak to us across the no-man's land of the Atlantic ocean is for more and more materials. Our ability to produce the materials of war in satisfactory quantity is limited by our physical capacity and time. Our only hope lies in diverting peace-time operations to wartime requirements.

Diversion of productive facilities is effected in either or both of two ways. Voluntary or otherwise. Financial measures such as by taxation and borrowing are useful and play an important part, but the part they play is dependent upon the measure of public support they receive.

In the Victory Loan drive Canadians added to their laurels, and the measure of their effort in this direction will make pleasant reading when the final

figures are issued from Ottawa this month. That, however, is water over the dam and War Savings is now in need of support. This is the movement in which the greatest number of Canadians can put their shoulders to the wheel.

War Savings is a twice-blessed effort in that dollars invested in War Savings Certificates do double service; they do not compete with the war effort and they stand ready to take up the slack for the peace-time readjustments. Dollars diverted from non-essential spending at this time leave room for the expansion of production needed for the men overseas.

Fill Your Coal Bin Now

Fill your coal bin now. Every ton of coal you can store away today makes it possible to ship an additional ton of munitions this winter.

Canada's transportation industry is facing up to its biggest job. Railroad traffic is increasing rapidly. If you purchase and take early delivery of as much as possible, your fuel requirements for the coming winter, you can help materially to avoid a transportation bottleneck.

After October the greatly increased output of munitions in Canada and the United States must take precedence over all other transportation demands. If you don't buy your coal when transportation is available, you may have to wait for it this winter. I urge you, therefore, in your own and your country's interest, fill your coal bin now.

The above is a statement from coal administrator J. McG. Stewart. We've always had winter here in Canada and always needed fuel. If you want to be sure of your supply stock up now with all you can.

A Local Paper Covers the Territory

Some people seem to have the impression that the weekly newspaper doesn't cover the territory it serves in comparison to other media, such as dailies, magazines, etc. Recently the extension department of the University of Alberta made a survey through their youth training schools of the situation existing in that province. Questionnaires were sent out and it was revealed that in the households the weekly newspaper held a decidedly strong lead over other kinds of publications. The survey revealed: 76.2 per cent. get the local weekly newspaper; 44.5 get a daily newspaper; 21 per cent. get a farm paper; 27 per cent. get other periodicals. When a community or district has a substantially good weekly newspaper that concentrates on giving services people are entitled to, there is no doubt that advertisers can safely choose it as the medium to reach the people.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Have you done your share toward conservation of gasoline? Only you can answer that question.

With Acton Fair on Tuesday and Wednesday and the Legionnaires of the Zone 20 holding their church service here this week is certainly visitors' week.

Though the Ontario Government advises municipalities go slow in entering their employees under the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Ontario Hydro Commission has placed its workmen under the Act. But, then, the Hydro Commission has no point in playing politics against the Federal authority—Chesley Enterprise.

The Burlington Gazette showed real enterprise last week. The ceremonies in connection with the christening of the ship "Burlington" were held on Wednesday the day the Gazette is issued. That night pictures and a complete account of the ceremony appeared in the Gazette. Congratulations to Messrs. Harris are certainly in order.

It is pointed out that silk stockings were not generally worn until 1914 when slit and bobbed skirts ushered in the era of short skirts. At the beginning of the century it is said that only one woman in 2,000 wore silk stockings. So, if women went 1,000 years without silk stockings, it surely would not be such a great sacrifice to again do without them for a short period.

A daily paper ran the following item for a milk dairy: "We are faced with a real emergency. Please comb the basement, the garage, the garden, the back porch and every other conceivable corner where a forgotten milk bottle may be hiding. We have plenty of milk, but you have the bottles." Needless to say the response was tremendous. No doubt the same situation prevails in Acton.

Somebody leaned too heavily or in some way pushed in the glass in one of the front windows at the Free Press Office on Saturday night. We would have been delightedly surprised if the person accountable had come in and offered to help pay for the new glass necessary but, we haven't been delighted or surprised by such an action yet. But we're still open to having our viewpoint on human nature altered.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS



WAR 25 Years Ago

Tanks Made First Appearance on Western Front: Twin Aided Canadians in the Capture of Courcelette

BY H. H. GORDON
Canadian Press, Staff Writer

Success of the 2nd Canadian Division at Courcelette and the introduction of the tank into modern warfare were noteworthy features marking the opening of the third phase of the Battle of the Somme in the First Great War.

Thrown into the battle line on the offensives, only nine managed to push ahead with the infantry and they caused considerable loss to the enemy. Nine others, unable to keep pace with the attackers, did good work dispersing enemy troops holding out at isolated spots. The remaining 147 other, broken down or became disabled, in wide craters or trenches.

Controversy raged over the employment of tanks in the time. The development of the great engines of destruction had been a closely guarded secret. Those responsible for tank production held that the secret should not be disclosed until a surprise attack could be carried out on a sufficient extensive scale to insure a decisive success.

The 32 tanks employed in the offensive operations, only nine managed to push ahead with the infantry and they caused considerable loss to the enemy. Nine others, unable to keep pace with the attackers, did good work dispersing enemy troops holding out at isolated spots. The remaining 147 other, broken down or became disabled, in wide craters or trenches.

Operating behind the German lines from the Baltic to the Black Sea, Russian guerrilla bands have struck blow on blow at Nazi communications destroying bridges, attacking isolated units, leaving to German columns nothing but the devastation of a scorched earth.

In furtherance of their campaign, members of the guerrilla bands, according to Russian papers, have taken this pledge of death before surrender:

"I, a citizen of the great Soviet Union, a faithful son of mine of Red public, swear that I will not lay down my weapons until the last Fascist in our land is destroyed, swear to obey the orders of my commanders and to keep strict military discipline. I swear to take unmerciful revenge for the destruction of our towns and villages, for the death of our children, for the tortures, violence and humiliation inflicted upon my people. Blood must be repaid by blood and death by death. I swear to assist the Red Army in every possible way, to destroy the enemy without sparing my efforts or even my life. I swear that I would rather die than surrender to the enemy and that I will not let my people be enslaved by the bloodthirsty Fascists. Should I through weakness, cowardice or evil designs break this solemn oath and betray the interests of my people, may I die a shameful death at the hands of my comrades."

Decision to use the tanks was taken because of the need of reviving the momentum of the Somme offensive which had died away after two months of fighting. The urgency of raising the morale of tired troops was also a factor. Originators of the weapon took the ground that the small number actually employed could hardly have given a result to compensate for the premature disclosure of the secret.

But the Somme proved that the tank was master of the machine-gun and barbed wire entanglements, allowing infantry to meet the defence on more than equal terms. Later it was used with ever greater success. The tank had its greatest vindication when the German High Command, reporting near the close of hostilities

in 1918, confounded it to be one of the deciding factors in British successes.

Nine Kept Going

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