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The LETTER BOX

Acton, August 12th, 1942. The Editor of The Free Press:

Last night, something happened, which made me laugh. As laughter is such a rare commodity in these days, I should like to tell you the reason for my loud chortles. I hope that you will chortle too.

I was driving home from the farm on my tractor about ten o'clock, and as I passed the Town Hall, a representative of the provincial police hailed me: "Hello, there," he said.

Startled, I reviewed my most recent lapses of conduct and discovered that none merited the interest of the police. Why, I hadn't even had time to steal apples from our neighbor's harvest apple tree.

The gentleman on the steps soon enlightened me. It appeared that a certain minority of the Acton public was deeply concerned about my tractor and me.

I felt flattered. When this exceedingly egotistical minority develops a temperature on somebody else's account, that is nothing less than cynicism.

My tractor and I purred with complacency. "What seems to be the trouble?"

"Well, it's this way: they feel that by driving your tractor to the farm and back each night, you are perhaps, wasting gasoline. They also expressed themselves as being distressed about the possible wear of tires."

My tractor and I were both too stunned to reply for a moment. We knew that a few town people still cherished quaint ideas about farm vehicles, but this was the first time I had ever been tacitly accused of driving a tractor for pleasure. It was a lovely thought. Joy-riding on a tractor has tremendous possibilities; when the harvest is all in, I may even capitalize on that suggestion. And to show that I appreciate a good joke, even when it is at my own expense, I promise to reserve free tickets for those zealous patriots who asked the police to investigate my activities.

The police, by the way, was soon satisfied that my tractor and I were in beautiful harmony with the laws of the land.

It so happens that I am more experienced at driving tractors than writing letters to The Acton Free Press; for that reason, you may not yet have perceived the exquisite humor of the situation.

You see, it's this way: We all read an appeal for townfolk to spend their leisure time helping farmers because labor is so scarce. That appeal is posted in the window of The Free Press where everyone may read it. I suspect that the only ones who look the other way when they pass that poster, are those same altruistic souls who deplored my unnecessary use of gasoline and tires. But that is beside the point.

Well, I work ten hours a day in the Boardman Tanning Co. As soon as supper is finished, I hop on my tractor, and away we go to work at the farm, or wherever I can conveniently help. As my vigilant friends can testify, it is usually ten or eleven o'clock before I get home.

Unfortunately, this seems to have distressed a few embryo Shriekgrubers whose most energetic contribution to the war effort is a low, snaking criticism of those who are doing their best to help their country.

Anyone is blind or stupid who contends that our war effort, individually, legally or nationally, is above reproach, but misdirected criticism should be avoided like the plague. May I remind those who have nothing better to do than waggle their tongues about the transgressions of their fellow citizens, that my tractor consumes less gasoline than a car en route to the farm. If you seriously wish to prevent unnecessary use of gasoline, why not cast your eagle eye on those families or business concerns who maintain two or three cars or trucks and thus adroitly increase their ration? Why not raise your protesting bray against those pious business men who still drive to work? Why not direct your puny wrath against callow youths who charge on love-making jamborees about the countryside, in old tin derricks that ought to be scrapped for salvage?

Most important of all, if you MUST improve, make quite certain that your repairs are justified. Heaven knows there are innumerable wrongs to redress; injustices are legion, but senseless carping will not right them. Finally, let me assure those who may still be anxious on that score, that my tractor and I are not guilty of any infraction of the law when we romp over the countryside at night.

You see, we couldn't go overseas and take a crack at Mr. Shieklegrubers personally, but we ARE trying to do our best at home.

Are You?

Sincerely,
HARRY WARE.

Weekly War Commentary

Specially Written for The Acton Free Press by GUY RHODES, Canadian Press Staff Reporter

Australia's growing and very vocal anxiety about the situation in the southwest Pacific—particularly as it concerns the safety of Australia itself—is beginning to draw criticism from the man in the street in the United States. Such criticism is not well thought out.

W. M. Hughes, deputy leader of the Australian parliamentary opposition, has expressed the Australian viewpoint by summing up the Japanese accomplishments and the comparative lack of allied achievements and asking, in effect, "what goes on?"

The Japanese have "raced" through Malaya, Hong Kong, Singapore, taken the Philippines, the Netherlands East Indies and Burma, have obtained Thailand and French Indo-China without fighting, occupied numerous Pacific islands, obtained footholds in New Guinea, bombed Northern Australian towns and even sent baby submarines into Sydney harbor.

Mr. Hughes calls for an immediate counter-offensive and finds "difficult to understand" why the Japanese were allowed to occupy those strategic points (referring mainly to Gona and Buna in New Guinea) without opposition.

Mr. Hughes is also worried because the landings were reportedly made by small forces and were not immediately attacked. He is worried because, he says, Australia has trained and equipped large land and air forces and has allies alongside them from the United States.

Men and Equipment

The answer according to observers on the spot is that the force is not too big, that only one in six of the military personnel is American and that the country still lacks equipment; has, in fact, American equipment representing only about one per cent. of the last 12 months' output of American factories.

Canada's situation might be comparable if the enemy had established footholds, say in Newfoundland and Labrador, Sable Islands, off the coast of Nova Scotia, and Greenland, and if the dominion were removed several thousand miles from the United States instead of being contiguous to it.

If submarines sailed into Halifax and shot up ferry boats most Canadians would get excited. If bombs fell in Churchill, Man., Yarmouth, N.S., and in the Madagellan Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, they would be alarmed.

These are just the sorts of things that have happened in Australia. They do not want to be conquered by the Japanese any more than anyone else, and they are afraid they might be.

On the basis of the record the man in the street who accuses Australia of "hollering without being hurt" is wrong. They are hollering for help after being hurt.

India's Position

Australians are also looking with growing anxiety to India, beyond the island bridge of the East Indies and the Bay of Bengal. While the India-Burma border fluctuates under alternating pressure from the Allies and Japanese, Mahatma K. Gandhi calls his Nationalist followers to rise in a mass civil disobedience campaign to drive Britain out of power in India.

At the opening of a session of the All-India Congress Party, one of India's greatest political powers, the 73-year-old prophet of independence declared to 10,000 followers, "Our movements for freedom in the past will become insignificant with the forthcoming movement."

On Saturday, Gandhi appealed to the United States for help, and asserted that a repetition of the disasters of Malaya and Singapore could not be averted in India "unless British trusts, the people of India to use their liberty in favor of the Allied cause."

How many of India's 388,000,000 support the Mahatma cannot be estimated, but it is known that a considerable percentage definitely disagree with him. If Gandhi continues his stand, there may even be a rift in the All-India Congress Party.

Russian Situation

Hitler's wave of men and machines rolled onward to its first major goal in the Caucasus as it smashed at the approaches of the Maikop oil fields, 170 miles south of Rostov.

For the first time, Russian acknowledged that the Germans had lunged down the west side of the Caucasus and bridge after making a break through the Red Army defenses.

German Field Headquarters asserted that Nazi troops have captured Kurgannaya, 30 miles from Maikop, and the rail junction of Armavir, 60 miles northwest of Maikop.

On the Stalingrad front, the Soviet command conceded fresh German gains as Nazi tanks had cut a wedge into the Red Army defenses 95 miles to the southwest of Stalingrad and turned northward along the rail line to the city. Northwest of Stalingrad, the Red Army was reported holding a fire in the face of furious onslaughts.

Stalingrad continued to be the brightest spot on the Russian front throughout the week, while in the south the Nazis stormed into the Maikop oilfields. In the Novorossiisk area on the Black Sea, the Red Army girded itself for defence as German forces swept by to the east, almost trapping them.

Meanwhile the United States supply mission in Moscow headed by Major-General Follett Bradley continued conferences with Soviet generals regarding supplies for the Red Army. Nazis insist that Churchill has been in attendance along with other Allied leaders. General Bradley reports that his mission "has nothing to do with a second front."

Allied Offensive

The powerful United States Pacific fleet has taken the initiative with an attack on the Japanese-held Solomon Islands 900 miles northwest of Australia. News of the offensive was not released until Sunday, three days after the operation was begun.

In the battle which may mark the turning point in the war in the Pacific, the Allied forces continue to attack in the face of stiff Japanese resistance. Official releases offered little more news than that up to Tuesday when word came through, "We are holding our own."

Admiral King, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Fleet, declared that the attack was "our first as a fleet" and added that the objective was to regain control of the Solomons lying athwart the vital Allied supply lines to Australia.

Land fighting seems to have centred on the islands of Tulagi and Guadalcanal in the southeast of the tiny archipelago. Tulagi possesses a harbor large enough to provide anchorage for an armada, and Guadalcanal was being prepared as a great air base.

Allied losses announced Monday reported a cruiser sunk, and damage to two more cruisers, two destroyers and a transport.

Attacks on the Solomons may prove a testing ground for Allied tactics planned for opening a second front somewhere in Europe, will aid the Chinese by diverting Japanese attention, and may prevent the opening of a Japanese "second" front against Russia.

Indian Disobedience

The All-India Congress Party voted Gandhi the right to call forth civil disobedience, and India's seething masses answered with disorders and violence despite their leader's pleas for "courage, discipline, and organization."

Gandhi and his lieutenants have been arrested and the mobs throughout the country have been deprived of central leadership. Rioting, mill stoppages, demonstrations and police intervention have spread, Hindus have stoned Moslems, and the campaign continues with increasing fury.

The government has taken increased measures to restore order, and in some areas armed troops have marched in to aid where police strength seems inadequate.

The British aircraft carrier Eagle was sunk in the Mediterranean. A dispatch from London on Wednesday confirmed the previous Axis report that the 24-year-old vessel was torpedoed, and stated a large part of the warship's crew had been saved. At least one enemy submarine was destroyed in the action.

Information leaking out from Tokyo alleges attempted assassination of Japanese Premier General Tojo. Park Soowon, Korean patriot, shot and slightly wounded Tojo and former Premier Hirota. In the melee which followed, gendarmes killed Soowon and a number of Japanese bystanders. Terrorists are reported active in Tokyo, Yokohama and Osaka.

Free Press Wins Newspaper Awards in Competitions

(Continued from Page One)

throughout the fifty-two weeks and allow no opportunity to prepare special issues for contest purposes.

Just as in any contest whether it be hockey, baseball, musical festival etc., it is team work that counts. To the Free Press staff the credit is due, R. J. (Bob) MacArthur, who is foreman; J. C. (Cam) Currie, linotype operator; Mrs. K. S. Blow, who is in charge of the business office; David Dills, and George Taylor who have been assistants during holidays and after school hours.

And to those correspondents who made the mark of 7 out of a possible 10 must go much of the credit. Their effort went for the Free Press first place and the highest score in that department. The team really means the town and district in the case of a weekly newspaper. Local news often comes from the help of all the community. Special features and columns are part of the newspaper and play a big part in winning recognition.

The editor is happy to have been a member of the team that gave Acton's newspaper a good standing among the weekly newspapers of the Dominion.

RICHMOND, England, (CP) Five members of the Home Guard were killed during a cooking exercise when one of the cooking squad tried to light a fire with live explosives.

Three Meetings Esqueing Council, Variety of Problems

(Continued from Page One)

All \$900 subject to the approval of the Department of Highways, and the motion as of June 1st, 1942, pertaining thereto be rescinded.—Carried.

Esqueing Township Council held their regular meeting on Tuesday evening, August 4th. Councillors George E. Cleave, George Currie and Wm. Wilson were present. Reeve C. H. May presided.

A letter from Mr. C. F. Leatherland, Clerk of Acton, was read in connection with the closing of the bridge leading to the Crescent, with a copy of the resolution. A letter from Mr. Dennis, County Clerk, showing the amounts due the County for 1942. Mr. Higgins, District Engineer, attended when tenders were opened for driving piles at washout on 9th line. No action was taken. The Reeve and members of Acton Council attended on the council in connection with the road leading to the Crescent. Mr. Leatherland and Mr. Dills accompanied them.

Moved by Cleave, seconded by Wilson, that the following accounts be paid: Board of Hydro Commissioners, Georgetown, street lights at Glen Williams to June 30, \$74.75; H. E. P. C. Brampton, lights at council chamber, \$4.08; Bell Telephone Co., account, \$2.73; The Municipal World, 1942 Ontario Statutes, \$2.00; G. C. Brown, renewal Bond No. 4B2827 for clerk to July 15th, 1943, \$5.—Carried.

Moved by Wilson, seconded by Cleave, that Fence Viewers be paid for work performed June 30th; Clarence Anderson, \$2.00; R. W. Cunningham, \$2.00; Thos. H. Cook, \$2.00.—Carried.

Moved by Currie, seconded by Cleave, that Board of Health accounts be paid; Dr. A. T. Paval and Dr. C. V. Williams, to holding Board re. M. Cook and A. Henry \$10 each—\$20; Dr. R. T. Paval, attending M. O.H. convention, \$10; Mountain Sanatorium, Pneumothorax refills on Indigent, March 20th to June 16th, \$15.—Carried.

Moved by Wilson, seconded by Cleave, that road accounts be paid, \$779.28.—Carried.

Two by-laws were read and passed, the one fixing the salary of the treasurer and the other the salary of the Tax Collector.

Four more by-laws were passed at this meeting for the purposes of adjusting the remuneration paid to Fence Viewers; to distribute the interest-bearing from the Railway Bonus Fund among the different school sections; to assess the township for the year 1942 and the last one to assess the several school sections for the year.

Esqueing Council met again on Tuesday August 5th. At this meeting the following resolution was passed:

Moved by Wilson, seconded by Cleave, that this council accept the tender of Richardson Construction Company Ltd., Toronto, for the sum of \$2,991.00 for construction of untreated timber piling at the Credit River, Glen Williams, in accordance with plans and specifications prepared for that purpose.—Carried.

GOOD SHOES FOR YOUNG AND OLD "Correctly Fitted" B. D. RACHLIN, Acton

TAX NOTICE--1942 MUNICIPALITY OF ACTON Third Instalment Now Due August 15th Last Day Attention is drawn to the payment of 1942 Taxes, which are as usual payable in Four instalments. Especially attention is drawn to change in the place of payment of taxes which are this year payable at the Acton Public Utilities Office. Instalments Are Due As Follows: THIRD INSTALMENT - AUGUST 15th FOURTH INSTALMENT - OCTOBER 15th AVOID PENALTIES The attention of Ratepayers is directed to the Penalties and Other Clauses as printed on the reverse side of every Tax Notice and explained in Detail on Every Tax Bill. MAKE PAYMENT NOW AND TAKE YOUR TAX NOTICE WITH YOU WHEN MAKING PAYMENT. B. H. SPEIGHT, Collector.

Gallant Sea Officer Honored On Mr. Kelly's right is Captain Charles Waterhouse, Superintendent of Pilots, Halifax. In the centre background is W. G. Miller, Halifax manager, Canadian National Steamships, who represented R. H. Teakle, General Manager, Standing in the foreground next to Mr. Hosterman is Arthur Randless, Director of Merchant Seamen at Ottawa. A message of congratulation from Mr. Teakle said: "Mr. Kelly throughout the trying period displayed the high qualities of those who go down to the sea in ships." Captain Kelly was in charge of a lifeboat containing 36 persons which was afloat four days before being sighted by a rescue ship. The official account of the event cites that "Captain Kelly showed gallantry in staying to assist in the lowering of other boats after his own was safely away." His judgment in all things was above discussion. His leadership and friendly discipline were first-class. His seamanship was good. Not one person in the lifeboat ever criticized him. All considered him deserving of honor.

CANADIAN FIREMEN WELCOMED IN LONDON Herbert Morrison, minister of home security, attended the reception in Trafalgar Square, London, to the first contingent of the Canadian Corps of Firefighters, who have arrived in Great Britain to serve with the National Fire Force. The detachment numbers about 40 but under the scheme a force of several hundred will eventually be sent to Britain. Photo shows Mr. Morrison with Vincent McKay, High Commissioner for Canada, inspecting the Canadian detachment.

This and that —The holiday season is nearing the close. —Showers still continue pretty plentiful. —October 12th has been proclaimed Thanksgiving Day for Canada. —One of the prisoners escaped from Gueph Reformatory on Tuesday. —Plan now that you have September 18 or 19 set aside to attend Acton Fair. —You can't go to the Ex this year but you can meet your friends at Acton Fair on Sept. 18 and 19 and see a fine fair and exhibit. —If you have overlooked other reminders just look up and be assured that your Free Press label is in keeping with the times. —Please send in corrections for the Active Service list so that it may be kept up-to-date. The corrected list will be published again next week. —Since it requires four days each week to cart away the garbage in Acton we've often wondered how disposal was made before garbage collection was instituted. —Mrs. Duncan of the Winton Echo gives the latest wrinkle on conserving tea and says it works: Put in half the quantity you usually use and then add a pinch of sugar. The sugar draws out the flavor of the leaves and you get just as good tea as with a larger quantity.

WEDDED SATURDAY AT THE MANSE AT BALLINAFAD Rev. A. O. W. Foreman officiated at a quiet wedding at the Manse at Ballinafad last Saturday evening, when Dorothy Jean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Burgess was united in marriage with Pte. James Victor Swindlehurst, son of Mrs. Mary Swindlehurst and the late Ephraim Swindlehurst of Ballinafad. The bride wore a powder blue street-length dress with white accessories and a corsage of tallman roses, baby's breath and maiden hair fern. The bride was attended by her sister Mrs. Herbert McEachern, who was attired in navy blue crepe with white accessories and wore a corsage of red roses, baby's breath and maiden hair fern. The groom was attended by his brother Mr. Ray Swindlehurst. After the ceremony a wedding supper was served at the home of the bride's parents. The couple left later on a short wedding trip, the bride wearing a beige and brown ensemble. Guests were present from Toronto, Dunnville and Guelph.

BRANDED WIFE WORCESTER, England, (CP) James Taylor, 36, convicted of branding the word "hit" on his wife's back with a red-hot poker, was sentenced to 18 months at hard labor after the wife told the judge she forgave her husband. The judge had made up his mind to sentence the man to seven years.

JUST TIT FOR TAT LONDON, (CP) —"La Legion Noire," Belgian underground newspaper, told its readers that the "Allied forces" have on the continent "no right to be ready in our country to play the role played in May, 1910, by the fifth column which surrendered us to the enemy."