

# The Acton Free Press.

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## Minstrel Show Packs Hall Brings Galaxy Local Talent

One-Act Play Provided Fine Opening—Good Vocal and Instrumental Numbers and Dancing—End Men Keep the Crowd Laughing—Through Whole Performance—Show Proceeds Will Go to Funds of the War Service League.

It's a well known fact that for general popularity it takes the old-fashioned Minstrel Show to pack them in and raise funds for a worthy local organization. Acton has had them at different periods; back in 1925 and '26 by the band, then ten years later by the Hockey Club and this year in the interests of the Acton and Vicinity War Service League.

With all due respect to its predecessors the Minstrel Show of this year was the finest local presentation we have seen. It was well balanced, had good choruses and male singing and four of the best local end men we have ever seen working together with one of the finest interlocutors directing them. Costumes were good and the orchestra and piano accompaniments were splendid. The choral numbers, quartette and octette numbers were well above the average seen in Minstrel Shows. The One-Act play was well suited and well done and provided a fine opening for the show.

The show has played two nights to packed houses and indications are that to-night will be a repetition of that success. Tuesday night was children's night when they were admitted for ten cents and between 350 and 400 attended. It was a night out for the children and they made the most of it. They came before seven o'clock and most of them were there for the National Anthem at 10:30. It was the full two-hour and a half show as advertised. Perhaps local readers, most of whom have seen the show will bear with us if we give detail. The boys serving in Canada and overseas will want to know about it. We write this with them in mind too.

The orchestra which accompanies several of the numbers and plays before the show, the opening numbers, intermission and closing, has Mr. A. Mason as leader. Fred Salt at the keyboard, Charlie Landsborough, Cornet, and A. Mason, Cornet, Rudolph Spillvogel and Wellington Hall, violin, Chas. Mason, Cello, Ray Agnew, Trombone and saxophone and Ollie Stapleton, drums. They all appear in blackface and wig with white trousers, cut away coats and big red ties. Messrs. Mason and Landsborough did a cornet duet number that was a real selection, intricate and splendidly rendered.

One-Act Play  
The one-act play is entitled "Jealousy Plays a Part." It is just like all the show, an amusing event. A group of amateurs arranged to present a play and disagree because all want to play leading parts. It pleased the crowd and the seven members of the cast all played their parts well. It is directed by Mrs. J. C. Matthews with her usual thoroughness and abilities.

Here is the cast of characters: Marie, a maid, Anne Holmes; Mrs. Merryweather, an amateur actress, Meryl Kirkness; Claribel Gay, a gushy young girl, Lois Dawkins; Alfred Smith, a business man, Garnet McKenzie; Mrs. Smith, his wife, Beatrice Van Norman; Bert Wilcox, a would-be comedian, Robert Sly; Agnes Young, his fiancée, Mabel Harris.

Minstrel Part  
The Minstrel part of the show is opened by a Southern Melody by the orchestra and the chorus swings right into the opening chorus which gives introductions and explanations. The entire chorus appear in blackface.

## If We Fail What Happens in German Camps

Just last week we were permitted to read a letter from C.S.M. John Irving sent to Mrs. Irving here from Camp Stalag in Germany where he has been in hospital since the raid on Dieppe, a prisoner of war.

"We are getting prepared for a bang up Christmas, special meals (thanks to Red Cross) and a play being put on by the medical orderlies who attend to us. We, chess, checkers, tournaments of cribbage, chess, checkers, bridge and also have a Christmas tree in each ward."

Only the Red Cross can give prisoners of war these comforts. If we fail the Red Cross fails. Remember this when you make your subscription to the Red Cross this month. Make it a little extra to provide for the prisoners of war.

## Chinese Relief Fund Goes Over \$100 Mark This Week

The Chinese Relief Fund had donations during the week that put it over the first \$100 mark. There is nothing more we can tell you about this worthy fund. Everyone is well aware of the need for support to this one of our allies. All of you know about the sufferings and privations that the Chinese have undergone. We are not forgetful either that in the final analysis it must be by the side of China that fighting finally clears the Japanese menace. Here is the subscription list as it now stands.

Previously acknowledged ..... \$ 89.50  
Miss Mary Reid ..... 1.00  
Victor Alger ..... 1.00  
Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Wright ..... 3.00  
Mrs. Adam Stewart ..... 2.00  
Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Mason ..... 2.00  
J. H. M. .... 5.00  
\$103.50

## MR. AND MRS. CROSS MARKED THIRTY-EIGHTH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday the 28th a surprise party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Waterhouse for Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cross on the occasion of their thirty-eighth wedding anniversary and many friends were there to congratulate them on the occasion. Friends and relatives from out-of-town who were present were Mrs. Elmer Ireland and family, Mr. and Mrs. William Bradshaw and Marlene, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bradshaw and family and Mr. and Mrs. John MacCallum and Mrs. Marion Clayton. Miss Lillian Rigby of Guelph and also a number of Acton friends were present.

Several gifts marking the anniversary event were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Cross and after the presentation of the gifts a delightful lunch was served by the three daughters and a most enjoyable social time spent.

## Mr. Mrs. J. H. Reed Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary

Have Resided in Acton for Forty Years and Witnessed Many Changes in This Community

Monday Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Reed observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary and a happy family gathering was held at the home on Main Street to mark this occasion. For forty years of their fifty years of married life Mr. and Mrs. Reed have been esteemed residents of Acton. Mr. Reed has served on the School Board, and both are actively interested in the affairs of their Church and community.

The marriage fifty years ago was solemnized at the Johnston home in Erin Township, upon which Mrs. Basill Johnston now resides. Rev. Joseph Edger was the officiating minister, assisted by Rev. H. B. Christie. On this golden wedding anniversary it was rather unique that the top storey of the wedding cake—made fifty years ago by Thos. Statham, baker in Acton, was on display. Mrs. W. H. Brown of Orangeville, a sister of Mrs. Reed was bridesmaid and Mr. R. L. Johnston a brother of Mrs. Reed was groomsmen. Mr. and Mrs. Reed formed for the years at Mimosa before coming to Acton to reside.

A daughter and a son, Mrs. Harley Brignall (Luella) and Harold M. Reed, blessed the home. There are also three grandsons, Douglas and Robert Brignall and Wallace Reed. A grand-daughter, Helen Reed died at the age of fifteen months.

On this anniversary occasion the family presented Mr. and Mrs. Reed with a lovely set of dishes and other much appreciated gifts. They were also the recipients of many messages of congratulations by cards, letters, and flowers. To this fine Acton couple we add too our warmest best wishes for many more years together.

In talking with this couple who have resided so long in Acton they have seen many community changes. When they came here street lights were the old kerosene lamps, sidewalks were wooden and there were no paved roads. Mr. Reed recalled that Acton's industries were very limited in number and the years since had seen much growth in this respect.

## Weekly War Commentary

Specialty Written for The Acton Free Press BY H. U. GORDON Canadian Press Staff Writer

A remark of War Secretary Sir James Grigg in the House of Commons last week that he trusts Lt.-Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton's Canadian army "will not have to wait much longer" before launching itself against the enemy arouses once again speculation regarding the invasion of Western Europe.

It has been believed generally that the Canadians, some of them stationed in Britain for more than three years are destined to be the spearhead for an invasion of the Nazi-occupied lands. During their long wait they have been trained and equipped until they are believed to be the most heavily-gunned and armored force of their size in the world.

For long months they have undergone the most strenuous battle training—so strenuous in fact that some officers noted in action with British forces in North Africa said their baptism of fire there was not as tough as their training exercises in the British Isles.

For months the Canadians have been promised that their chance in the opening of a "second front" would come soon, and they have all wondered how soon and where.

It is possible their chance will not come until the field officers and non-commissioned officers in North Africa for battle practice return and have time to pass on to the troops the lessons they have learned in action against the Germans and Italians. And where they will strike when they do is anybody's guess.

Canadian Expeditions  
In the present war the expeditionary experiences of the Canadians have included the following: A small force acted as occupation troops in Iceland after that Danish dominion was given Allied protection; another force went to Spitzbergen to destroy installations there which the enemy was using.

The greatest force of Canadians to be used in an expedition was sent against Dieppe last August in a combined operation designed to test the strength of the enemy coastal defenses in France.

In the days immediately preceding the fall of France a small Canadian force set to help defend Paris, but it was forced to return to Britain when refugees plugged roads and rendered the troops advance on the capital impossible.

Gen. McNaughton has promised the Canadians will strike the enemy (Continued on Page Eight)

## This is Service Your Funds Give To Overseas Boys

It requires almost \$150 a month to send regular shipments of cigarettes to the boys from Acton and district overseas. But every week the mail says the effort is worth while. We try to give you glimpses from these letters and here are some received just this week.

Frank VanWyeck: "They come so regularly that I don't need a calendar. Thanks a million."

R. A. Johnson: "It sure is grand of you to keep sending us fellows over here smokes."

Bill Caldwell: "We certainly owe a great deal of thanks to you people of Acton."

K. Frank: "And I sure was more than pleased to get them. A million thanks to all."

Tom Nicol: "Received your lovely Christmas box, also 300 cigarettes. Thanks over so much. They were just what a soldier could wish for."

M. G. Campbell, (Moffat): "Thanks for lovely parcel. I can assure you everything is most useful and welcome. The work you are doing is heartily appreciated by all of us. Tell Mrs. Hodgins the socks she knit are grand."

N. A. Price: "It was so nice of you people to do this for us fellows over here and I know the fellows will remember it."

And so it goes. All we can do is give you a list of the names of those who wrote. Here they are: Arthur Ford, H. W. Godfrey, D. McDonald, W. C. Jones, G. C. Wallace, Peter Walker, J. H. Alger, W. R. Elliott, J. Moore, E. C. Wilson, Jim Wallace, Florio Tournour, G. W. Strogan, Max Storey, J. Scriven, J. McHugh, G. C. Allan, G. L. Aldrie, R. Biggin, I. F. Bragg, E. A. (Ted.) Clifford, E. W. Douglas, Arthur Gamble, Norman Gibson, H. G. Hayes, B. D. Hodge, A. Irvin, K. A. McDonald, G. McKeown, Michael McMillan, H. L. McIntyre, Albert E. Mills, A. G. Martin, Gordon Lambert.

## Hydro Has Profit of \$3,113.80 on Year's Operation

Balance Sheet Presented at Meeting Shows Power Users Are Biggest Consumers

The regular meeting of Acton Public Utilities Commission was held on Monday evening. Chairman C. M. Hansen presided and J. R. MacArthur was present.

The matter of insurance was discussed and it was decided to have Superintendent Wilson take an inventory of the contents of the warehouse before the insurance becomes due, to ascertain if enough insurance was carried.

The operating and financial report of the Hydro Department revealed that a net surplus of \$3,113.80 had been earned on this year's operation. This annual detailed report gives some figures that are very interesting.

Commercial power service is the largest source of revenue—that is Acton's industries. During last year \$30,439.09 was derived from this source. Domestic services came next and brought in \$13,497.95. Commercial lighting service had receipts of \$5,456.95 and municipal power amounted to \$737.16. Total revenue for the year was \$52,615.76. Total operating costs and fixed charges amounted to \$49,501.46. Depreciation of \$1,681.00 was allowed for before the surplus was computed as above.

There are 542 domestic services in Acton, 87 commercial light services and 18 power services making a total of 647 services.

There is no debenture or other indebtedness on the Acton plant and the valuation of the local equipment, lines, etc., is \$63,844.63. Securities and investments of \$13,500 are held and Acton has an equity in the I.E.P.C. systems of \$77,616.00. Total assets are given as \$158,243.72. Total liabilities of the year end were \$1,116.14.

A letter from Neptune Meters quoted a price of \$11.97, F.O.B., on water meters in lots of \$100.

A letter from G. C. Cousins, Superintendent of the lighting department of the I.E.P.C. of Ontario thanked the Commission for the co-operation given them in arranging trial lighting for the Canadian Wool Co. It also enclosed a letter of thanks from the Canadian Wool Co. for the co-operation given them in the experiment.

The Secretary - Treasurer, Miss B. H. Spelgt is instructed to pay the following accounts:

Hydro Dept.	
Mrs. H. L. McDonald, Insurance	\$14.25
Foyce Electric Products, supplies	2.23
Superior Electric Ltd., supplies	2.92
MacDonald Electric Ltd., supplies	5.59
Mrs. Smith, cleaning and waxing floors	1.25
Canadian National Express Co., express	.80
Grand & Toy, supplies	14.75
J. C. Matthews, postage and unemployment stamps	16.40
Dept. of National Revenue, sales tax license	2.00
	\$53.19

## LOCAL YOUTH GOES TO JAIL FOR THIRTY DAYS ON CHARGES

Donald Palmer of Acton was sentenced to thirty days in jail yesterday when he pleaded guilty to two charges preferred against him by Chief Harrop. This had been previously in court and was at liberty only on certain good behaviour conditions which he failed to comply with. He has also taken a car without the consent of the owner.

It is rather a serious matter that in the court in Milton yesterday five youths were charged with various offences and the ages of these lads was from 17 to 21 years.

## MARCH MEETING OF ST. ALBAN'S GUILD MET AT MRS. C. GIBBONS

The March meeting of St. Alban's Guild was held at the home of Mrs. C. Gibbons Monday evening with a good attendance. The meeting was opened with prayer by Mrs. Nelles and the report of last meeting was given by the Secretary followed by the roll call. The business matters of the meeting were discussed.

It was decided the Guild would knit for the Navy League and sew for the Red Cross for their war work. Group No. 2 set the date for their euchre. The meeting was closed with Benediction and a social time was spent. Mrs. Fred Stuckey, Church Street, invited the Guild to her home for the April meeting.

## The Week at OTTAWA

Specialty Written for The Acton Free Press BY DOUGLAS GREEN Canadian Press Staff Writer

Adoption of a pay-as-you-go income tax system was announced by Finance Minister J. L. Halsey when he brought down his 1943-44 budget in the House of Commons March 2.

Under the budget terms, general revenues are expected to reach a net total of \$2,391,000,000 compared with estimated expenditures of \$5,500,000,000.

Mr. Halsey announced no major changes in the income tax structure, but his proposals included a one-cent increase in letter postal rates, except for servicemen overseas, and additional taxes on liquor, tobacco and entertainment. No changes are to be made in succession duty or sales tax and only minor changes in the excess profits tax.

In regard to income tax regulations, 50 per cent of the income tax liability for 1942 will be wiped out in the case of all earned incomes and in the case of investment incomes up to \$3,000. On an investment income of more than \$3,000, half of the 1942 tax liability will be deferred until the death of the recipient.

The 50 per cent 1942 income tax "forgiveness" will be effected by having tax returns for 1942 filed June 30 instead of Sept. 30 with payment of one-third of the tax remaining after forgiveness, the remaining two-thirds to be paid by Dec. 31. The pay-as-you-go plan will go into effect April 1.

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## Mrs. Fairclough Guest Speaker at I.O.D.E. Meeting

The Order of Devothshire Chapter, Imperial Duke Daughters of the Empire, held the first meeting in the form of an officers' tea on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Anos Mason, Bower Ave. At this meeting Mrs. Fairclough, Provincial Secretary of the Order was guest speaker, the officers of Lakeside Chapter were guests and Mrs. W. J. Beatty, Regent, presided.

During the business session plans were made for the year's program and committees formed for the "mixed bridge and euchre," to be held in the Y.M.C.A.

Mrs. Youngblut, a new member, was welcomed into the Chapter and the Order.

Mrs. Fairclough proved herself a most charming and enthusiastic speaker, talking as her subject the work of the Order. "This national organization," said Mrs. Fairclough, "with its prime object—to stimulate and give expression to the sentiment of patriotism—is made up of 40,000 Canadian women, and turns over approximately \$1,000,000 annually in its various projects."

Organized in 1900, this is the third year through which the Order has worked. In wartime its object is to provide an efficient organization by which prompt and united action may be taken by the women of the empire when such action may be desirable.

In speaking of the work of the Order in peacetime, Mrs. Fairclough dwelt at length on the following branches of service—Educational Endowment, "Echoes," personal obligations of individual members, child and family welfare work, home hospitality, empire study, film and press work, Girl Guide movement, immigration work and the Navy League.

In closing she spoke of the standard and what it symbolizes, and issued a challenge to all members to be true to the democratic way of life, remembering that democracy is a sacred trust handed down to us, to enjoy for a little while and then pass on to posterity.

As a token of appreciation a gift was presented to Mrs. Fairclough by Mrs. E. E. Barr. Mrs. J. C. Matthews and Mrs. E. Harrop made a motion of thanks and Mrs. W. G. Cullen, Regent of Lakeside Chapter, spoke briefly. The newly-elected officers acted as hostesses for the social part of the meeting.

## ERIN TOWNSHIP QUOTA IS \$1,400 IN RED CROSS CAMPAIGN

Owing to the impassable condition of roads the Township of Erin Red Cross Campaign will be late in March. The canvassers will call for your contribution towards the Erin quota of \$1400.00. We ask you all to consider seriously the great need of every dollar we can give to help carry this humanitarian work of mercy to all our allies, the men in our armies, not forgetting our men who are prisoners of war.—Mrs. Reynolds, President.

## Red Cross Needs \$3200 From Acton and District

### Scouts and Cubs And Boys' Band Give a Program

In connection with Scout Week the organized youth of Acton put on an evening last Thursday that had as its only weak point, the disorderliness of the unorganized youth who attended and this applies to the girls as well as the boys.

The Boys' Band under the leadership of Mr. Chas. Mason made their first appearance and it was very creditable. Wolf Cubs under the direction of Rev. Mr. Brooks, Cubmaster, gave a demonstration of routine matters at Cub meetings, games, etc.

The Scout Troop under Rev. Mr. Thomson gave demonstrations in First Aid, bandaging, Kluks' Game, etc. Mr. J. H. Boulton, Group Committee Chairman, was in charge.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER TO BE HELD ON MARCH 12th

The ladies of the various congregations of the churches in Acton have arranged to hold the service in Acton in connection with the World Day of Prayer in Knox Church on Friday afternoon at three o'clock, on March 12th. All are welcome at this service and all that can be urged to attend. Mrs. F. S. Blow will preside.

## Championship for Badminton Decided At Y Tournament

Last Friday night the finals in the Badminton Tournament were played at the Y.M.C.A. Miss Florence Salt and Gordon Beatty were the winners with Miss Frances Dills and George Hollinger as the runners-up. There were ten games in this elimination contest.

The winners will be presented with the trophy at the annual meeting. The trophy remains in the Y and a miniature goes to the winners each year. There was keen contest and a good many turned out to watch the games.

## Annual Statement Esqueuing Council Shows Surplus

K. C. Lindsay Is Appointed Township Treasurer at Meeting on Monday

Esqueuing Township Council held their regular meeting on Monday afternoon. Presently—George C. W. Murray, Councillors Geo. E. Cleave, George Currie and Wm. A. Wilson were present and Reeve C. H. May presided.

The annual statement for the year 1942 from Jenkins & Hardy was presented, showing a surplus on operations for the year of \$920.22. A letter was read from the Canadian Aid to Russia Fund in connection with the appeal for clothing.

The road accounts of \$578.72 were passed for payment. Other accounts passed included Bell Telephone Co. services \$10.59; Jenkins & Hardy, audit fee \$200; postage and stationery \$5.37; box rent \$200; J. Sanford, taking patient to Toronto Hospital \$5.00.

Relief accounts of \$63.60 were passed. A by-law was read and passed appointing K. C. Lindsay as Treasurer of the Township of Esqueuing. Council adjourned to meet again on Monday, April 5th.

## MARCH MEETING OF THE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The regular monthly business meeting of the United Women's Association was held at the home of Mrs. W. Evans on Tuesday with Mrs. Ivan Harris presiding. The devotional period was taken by Mrs. Harris and Mrs. S. Reid.

The ladies are busy quilting and have several for sale. After the business was disposed of lunch was served by Mrs. Evans, assisted by Mrs. I. Harris, Mrs. B. Veldhuis, Mrs. R. L. Johnson and little Betty Mae Fosbury and a social time was spent.

A hearty vote of thanks was given Mrs. Evans for the use of her home and hospitality and the lunch assistants.

## Major Watson of Red Cross Headquarters to Show New War Pictures at Community Event Next Week in Town Hall Here—Canvass of Industries Will Proceed First.

Plans were formulated on Monday evening when members of Acton and District Red Cross Society met to participate in the Dominion Campaign for \$10,000,000. President A. Mason was in charge of the meeting. The quota for this community is \$3,200. We have never failed in any year obligation set. The Red Cross especially at this present time is certainly one place in which we must not fail.

On Wednesday evening March 10th Major Watson of headquarters will visit Acton with a series of new moving pictures showing war scenes in many places and the work being done by the Red Cross. It is planned also that the program will include numbers by the School Children's Choir and hit songs and numbers from the Victory Minstrel Show. It will be an evening that will likely find every seat in the hall filled again.

The canvass in the industries will be done first and every person in Acton and district will be given an opportunity to share in this great work.

Canadian Red Cross food parcels for prisoners of war represent the difference between life or death by slow starvation, according to released prisoners and interests on their return to British soil. While prisoners are supposedly issued the same rations fed to the "detaining powers," own soldiers, it is well known that the diet of prisoners in Axis lands consists mainly of watery soups and vegetables, barely sufficient to keep them alive.

The Red Cross food parcel, which each Canadian and British prisoner receives each week, contains sufficient calories to sustain him on light physical work for seven days, according to Canada's nutrition experts who carefully selected the 17 food items contained in each parcel. Principal items include milk powder, meat, fish, cheese, butter, fruit and biscuits, white even jam, chocolate, tea, salt and pepper are included to make the prisoner's life not only happier but healthier.

Since the outbreak of war, over two million of these Red Cross food parcels have been shipped overseas to soldiers, sailors, airmen, merchant navy men and civilians imprisoned in Germany, Occupied France, Italy and Africa. Cost of this tremendous task is shared proportionately by the Red Cross Societies of Great Britain, Canada and Australia.

That these parcels are reaching their proper destination is evidenced in the 400,000-and-more signed acknowledgment cards returned to Canada through the International Red Cross.

In addition, Red Cross delegates tour Axis prison camps every two weeks to check delivery and to inspect conditions. No effort of expense is spared to make sure that every member of British and Canadian forces in enemy hands is looked after and three of the most recent acknowledgments cards to reach Canada were from prisoners of the Imperial Indian Army.

Thousands of Canadian volunteer women in five Red Cross packing depots across Canada have recently attained an objective of packing 100,000.

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## LAKESIDE CHAPTER INSTAL OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR

The regular meeting of the Lakeside Chapter I.O.D.E. was held on Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. C. F. Leatherland. The new officers for the coming year were duly installed and the Charter presented to the new Regent, Mrs. W. G. Cullen.

Rolling-business was transacted. A donation was voted to the War Service League, and plans were made to hold a St. Patrick's party in the near future.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

## Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Concerts, or Other Events, under this heading are charged at cents per line, with a minimum charge for any announcement of 25c.

Come to the Pic Social, Debate and Dance, at Bloomsbury School, Tuesday, March 9th. Proceeds Chinese Belle and London Distress Fund. Admission 25c. Ladies supply pies.