

The Acton Free Press.

Sixty-Ninth Year.—No. 4.

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Eight Home-Print Pages—Five Cents.

Scout Leaders Now at Reserve at Blue Springs

Annual Course for Leaders is Being Held This Week and Next

The annual course for Scout leaders is being held this week at Blue Springs Reserve with half a dozen patrols taking the course. The course opened on Monday under the direction of Field Secretary Arthur E. Padden.

His assistants and demonstrators include Assistant Provincial Commissioner Frank C. Irwin, District Scoutmaster Walter Lemon, District Commissioners D. Johnston and George Mason, Field Secretary H. E. D. Mitchell, Provincial Council Vice-President Arthur Richardson and Acting Dominion Commissioner for Training W. L. Currie, Jr.

Next week the course for Cub leaders opens at this reserve when an even larger group will be in attendance. The course will continue all that week.

Thanks-Badge Presented by Scouts, Mr. Geo. Watson

At Blue Springs Scout Reserve last Wednesday night Mr. George Watson was made the recipient of the Boy Scouts "Thanks Badge" in recognition of many neighborly services he had rendered to the Scout Camp since it was established in 1937. The presentation was made in the presence of members of the 1943 Scout Leaders' Training Class by Mr. Arthur Herbert Richardson, Vice-President of the Ontario Boy Scouts Council.

Before the presentation Mr. Frank Irwin, Camp Chief, recounted in some detail things Mr. Watson had done for the Reserve and also called attention to excellent masonry work he had done on the various buildings, mentioning particularly the enormous stone fireplace in the Keko-downgaming. Mr. Watson, Mr. Irwin had said, had made the construction of the fireplace a "veritable labor of love," having hunted all over the township for especially interesting stones to put into it. It would stand as long as Blue Springs is operated as a Scout-training centre as a monument to his work and interest in Scouting. Mr. Watson has sold his farm on Blue Springs road and will shortly be moving from the district.

Wheels and Tires Removed From Car Stolen Here

The car belonging to L. E. Atkinson which was stolen on July 10th was recovered on Sunday last. Four of the tires and wheels were removed; the tops for the gas tank and radiator were taken and the hose from the heater had been removed, evidently in an effort to syphon some gas from the tank. No gas was however taken.

The car was found in the bush about a mile and a half west of Speyside. It had been driven several hundred yards into the bush where the thieves could work without interruption in removing the wheels and tires. Berry pickers made the discovery when going through the bush.

Chief Harrop was notified and the machine was brought to Acton on Sunday night. The car was recovered just a week after it was stolen.

CARELESS DRIVING CHARGE BRINGS FINE \$5 AND COSTS

In Police Court here last Thursday Bruce Kellmer of Milton was fined \$5 and costs on a careless driving charge. Magistrate Pritchard in making the fine gave consideration to the fact that the accused was joining the army.

The charge was laid by Chief E. Harrop and the careless driving occurred on Mill Street in Acton. The young man is fortunate a more serious charge was not laid.

Plant Changes Being Made While Employees Holiday

Provision for additional electric power is being made this week at the plant of The Wool Combing Corporation here. The employees of the plant are on holidays this week and during the shut-downs plant changes are being made.

Work on the new construction for a section for additional floor space for milled improvements is also underway by the Georgetown Lumber Co. who have the contract.

NATION OF GARDENERS

LONDON, (CP)—More than 4,000,000 persons—one in every 10 of the population—now are cultivating allotments or small gardens in Britain. Cash value of the foodstuff they produce exceeds \$112,500,000 a year.

Munitions Pour From Rural Plants



Plant and Government Inspectors Check Hand Grenades

From Sydney to Steveston, from Niagara to Nipawin, Canada's small towns are turning to war production. Hamlets, fishing villages, and prairie towns are playing an increasingly important role in the Dominion's war program.

In some centres, all the industries have been converted to wartime production. Dozens of vital materials are being turned out in outlying centres, where in peacetime no factories existed. Many plants have increased their staffs, some as much as 50 per cent, to handle war orders.

The varied types of products pouring from these plants are contributing greatly to the nation's total output. They include everything from engine parts to dehydrated vegetables and electrical equipment. One factory

which once made pipe organs is now producing mortar gun boxes; small machine shops are making gun parts; lumber yards are turning out munitions boxes. The small town of Baddeck on Cape Breton Island is a good example. Before 1939, it was little more than a summer resort. The yacht yard there made pleasure craft and repaired fishing boats. To-day, the yard is building work boats for the Army and Air Force and employs 44 workers.

And war industries mean more employment for the townsfolk. No longer need they leave home to seek employment in the big cities. Men and women are leaving the kitchen and farm to learn new skills and to take their part in the nation's war effort.

THIS WEEK

Specially Written for The Acton Free Press
By WILLIAM JOHNS
Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO, (CP)—As the Ontario general election campaign entered its last two weeks before the polling Aug. 4 it seemed certain there would be a contest in every one of the province's 90 ridings. There was no sign or hint of any acclamations. Nominating Day is Wednesday, July 28—meantime the party and group organizations have unofficially named two or more candidates for every seat. Saving unexpected retirements every riding will need a polling on Election Day.

As this newspaper goes to press word comes of the death on Tuesday, July 20, of Hon. Duncan McArthur, Ontario's Minister of Education, at his summer home in Grand Bend, on Lake Huron. In his capacity as big chief of the province's school system since October 20th, 1940, Duncan McArthur was popular with people of all shades of political opinion.

As well as being an educationalist, Mr. McArthur was a lawyer and business man and was deputy-minister of education from 1934 to 1940. He was member in the last Legislature for Simcoe Centre where he was given an acclamation on his appointment to the cabinet three years ago.

Proxies Arriving
It is announced that the first lot of the much-discussed proxies from Ontario's fighting electors overseas will arrive by bomber this week. These proxies delegate a relative or friend of the voter in the home town or country riding to mark a ballot on his or her behalf. The overseas voter cannot say in the proxy who is to get the vote but this instruction may be conveyed in a private letter to the delegated proxy.

It has been estimated there are as many as 140,000 Ontario electors in the fighting forces overseas and in Canada outside of Ontario who are entitled to these proxies. Proxies will not be used by those on active service in Ontario training centres. These service people will vote in the centres where they are stationed and appointed returning officers will telephone or telegraph returns to the constituencies concerned on election night.

Members of the Navy, Army and Air Force resident in Canada for three months and in Ontario for 30 days prior to their enlistment are eligible to vote personally or by proxy. Before casting the vote the proxy-holder must have the proxy validated by an election board.

Make Sure of Vote
As to the civilian—the home vote—all men and women over 21 years of age and entitled to the vote should make sure their names are on the voters' lists. This should not be left until polling day. Right now there are registration boards, appeal boards and other agencies appointed to see that qualified voters are on the lists.

Everyone interested—and everyone ought to be—should make it his or her business to see that he or she has the franchise when comes election day. There's the old election slogan "Vote as You Please—but Vote if you can. And now is the time to use that you can."

Dublin Branch Held July Meeting At Bloomsbury

Dublin Women's Institute met for their July meeting in Bloomsbury School and had as their guests, the neighbors and friends of that school section. Mrs. vanGoozen was in charge.

Roll call was answered with a beauty spot in Ontario. Motto "The Intelligence of the people is the security of the nation" was well taken by Mrs. Kennedy. Mrs. Somerville gave the story of the origin and working of the Acton and Vicinity War Services League.

Mrs. Near told of the Women's Institute as an organization and the many phases of its work. She introduced the guest speaker, Miss Charlotte McCullough, who outlined the girl's project and told how she won the award for the trip to Chicago. Miss McCullough gave a delightful account of her trip.

Mrs. Somerville read extracts from the scrap book. The Dublin school children sang three choruses which were well received. Mrs. Robertson sang a solo. Mrs. Storey demonstrated a new idea quilt and apron. Lunch was served and a social hour enjoyed.

THREE-POINT ATTACK
LONDON, (CP)—Delegates to the National Union of Women's Teachers' conference pledged themselves to a three-point course of action, "demand, attack, pester," until women are allowed their fair share in shaping the country's future.

APPOINTED CHAIRMAN



Mr. Hughes Cleaver, member for Hinton who was last week appointed Chairman of the War Expenditure Committee to take the place of Hon. A. Fawcett who was recently appointed to the Cabinet. Mr. Cleaver has been Chairman of Sub-Committee No. 1 on War Expenditures continuously since the Committee was first appointed.

Timely Comments Cleared from the Canadian Weeklies

Items From Here and There as Cleared for Free Press by The Canadian Press

Doctors Coming Up
Canada has 3,100 doctors on active service and the Canadian Medical Association is in a position to provide 1,000 more doctors up to the age of 40 in 24 months. This gives us some indication of how men in the medical profession are thinking to-day.—Kentville (N.S.) Advertiser.

Cost of Travel
Aside from the inconveniences, travelling costs more these days. This may not make a difference to some people, but it does make a difference to know that unnecessary travel does its bit to hinder the war program.—Lunenburg (N.S.) Progress Enterprise.

What-In Nova Scotia?
Since liquor rationing came into effect, the happy greeting of "Good Morning" seems to have changed by many to "How's your liquor permit?"—Pictou (N.S.) Advocate.

Unperishable Fame
Canadians in the past have won unperishable fame. There is no doubt that they will, now that the testing time has come, add further lustre to the name of Canada.—Pictou (Ont.) Gazette.

Why Letters Scarcer
With Canadian troops taking part in Sicily we can understand why there has been so little mail from the boys overseas the past few weeks. For security reasons they were told either not to write or else to say nothing about what they were doing.—Vankleok Hill (Ont.) Eastern Ontario Review.

No Cordwood, Either
If you can't pay for this paper, don't take it. If you take it, and won't pay for it, tip us off and we will show you what we can do about it. The days of slipshod methods in handling subscription accounts and of trusting people who must, never be trusted have passed in Trenton town.—Trenton (Ont.) Courier Advocate.

War Now Overseas
The Glorious Twelfth has come and gone with very little fanfare in Cobourg and immediate district.—Cobourg (Ont.) World.

Urbanite Responsibility
Urbanites should feel some responsibility for their own welfare and it is quite certain farmers will appreciate the help provided when most vitally needed.—Elmira (Ont.) Signet.

Romance In Reverse
The man on the park bench was small and bedecked with spectacles, while his lady friend, having notice disregarded for the rules of dieting looked for all the world like a walking balloon, overinflated in most parts and entirely lacking in others.—Lindsay (Ont.) Watchman Warder.

LABOR LEADER CASUALTY
CARDIFF, (CP)—George Morris, organizing secretary of the South Wales Regional Council, was among people killed by German bombs which fell on a South Wales town.

Weekly War Commentary

Specially Written for The Acton Free Press
By H. H. GORDON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

As the first week of the Sicilian campaign thundered by, the phrase "combined operations" took on a new and more ominous meaning for the apprehensive Axis.

Prior to the thrust that punched a small but threatening hole in Hitler's wall around Europe, "combined operations" meant the synchronizing of the sea, land and air forces of one country in an offensive stroke. Now it is a phrase used to describe the power that can be mustered when the three services of three countries—Britain, Canada and the United States—strike with the precision and weight of a single, giant sledgehammer.

That must be disheartening, even more so than the defeats they have suffered, to the Axis powers. To those would-be conquerors, whose policy of "divide and rule" had paid off with compound interest since before the days of Munich, such a combined operation as Sicily means point the way to their ultimate defeat even more clearly than their reeling armed forces.

Defeats may be absorbed, as Britain has proved, and battles may be fought, as was the desert campaign in North Africa. But co-ordination such as has been demonstrated by the Allied countries now invading Sicily can not be matched by the Axis partners, held together as they are by the ties of self-interest only.

Started in Tunisia
The ground-work for this was laid in Tunisia, when Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Gen. Sir Harold Alexander meshed their fighting forces to chase Rommel from Africa. It reached fruition when the greatest armada in history, guarded by the guns of the Royal Navy and made up of shipping from every Allied country, landed eager British, Canadian and American troops on the beaches of Sicily.

With the Canadians making a centre for the attacking forces and the British and Americans forming the flanks, these troops were a single fighting force under three flags that soon was pushing forward a front that a week after landing was reported to stretch 112 miles in width.

True reports coming from the front tell of Canadians taking one town, Americans another and the British still others. But a quick glance at the map shows they are working on one plan, toward one objective, with their sights pinned on the total subjection of what Mussolini once thought was his first line of defences.

It is an example of "combined operations" hitting with a power multiplied nine-fold—the three services of three countries acting as a single force.

Reach Catania Defences
It was reported at the week-end that the invading forces had captured more than 20,000 prisoners as they swept forward through hilly country toward the Catania plain where a major battle was believed to be impending. On the east coast, British and Canadian troops stormed Catania's defences and those towns lying several miles inland. The Canadians captured Catargone and Gramicchio, the centre of the line. At the western end of the Allied line the Americans were fighting in the Agrigento sector.

A week after the start of the invasion it was disclosed that the Canadian 1st Division fighting alongside Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery's desert warriors is under the command of Maj.-Gen. Guy G. Simonds of Kingston, Ont. At 40, the officer is the youngest man of his rank in the Canadian Army and was an official observer at the 8th Army's attack on the Mareth Line in Southern Tunisia a few months ago.

Praise for the Canadians came from General Montgomery. "I am very pleased indeed to have Canadians under my command," he said in an interview with Ross Munro, Canadian Press war correspondent. "They have done well. In fact, they were terrific on the beaches and in the attack inland."

Gave Up Early
But the Dominion soldiers were anything but pleased by the lack of fight shown by Italian troops at many points on the line of advance. The Canadians reported that the Axis troops surrendered in droves as soon as they were required to stand and fight. But a warning note was sounded by General Montgomery when he said: "They'll get a bellyful before they're through."

Canadian personnel is included in the new military government now in charge of occupied positions of Sicily. (Continued on Page Five)

Planning for the Convention Here of Volunteer Firemen

Acton Fire Brigade is making preparations for welcoming the forty-second annual convention of the Ontario Volunteer Firemen's Association. The convention will be held on July 31st and August 1st.

Events in which the general public will be interested and outside the convention sessions will be the big midway being conducted in the park on Saturday evening. The proceeds from this event go to the Acton and Vicinity War Service League. There will be a parade to the Park of Firemen and Fire equipment and led by the Acton Boys' Band.

On Sunday afternoon August 1st, there will be a parade of firemen and other organizations from the Town Hall to the Park where an open air service will be held at 2.30. This parade will be led by the Lorne Scots Band. The first Acton Troop of Boy Scouts will take part in the parade. The service in the park is being arranged and will be conducted by the local clergyman.

PTE. LINCOLN GAVE TOPIC AT E. Y. P. U. MEETING

The regular meeting of the E. Y. P. U. was held Tuesday evening in the church with the president in the chair. Following a business discussion the Scripture lesson was read by Mrs. McMullen. Mrs. C. Lande brought led in prayer. Pte. Chas. Lincoln gave the topic for the evening, "God Made Men," which proved very interesting. A hymn and prayer by the president concluded the program.

TORONTO FARM COMMANDOS HIGHLY APPRECIATED

In the County Town, the truck of the T. Eaton Company Limited with its almost daily load of farm commodities, is a familiar sight these days. We understand from Agricultural Representative J. E. Wittelshof, that the City of Toronto is rendering excellent co-operation. Upwards of 100 Commandos have been placed with 25 Hutton farmers. While a small percentage have come out for a week, in most cases they return home to Toronto the same evening. A number of farmers locally have had from two to four Commandos daily on four and five different occasions, which indicates they have been well pleased with the service rendered. Farmers who are in need of help would be well advised to contact the local agricultural office, if they are interested in securing some of this assistance.

CHANGES IN TIME TABLES ON BUSES NOW EFFECTIVE

Since the section of The Free Press giving the travel timetables went to press we have learned of changes which are now effective. The bus Westbound on Sundays and Holidays at 9.28 p.m. is now due at 8.38 and the daily bus due formerly at 11.53 p.m. is now scheduled at 11.29 p.m. In the Eastbound schedule the bus formerly due at 10.41 p.m. is now due daily at 9.51 p.m.

Canada Produces Finest Altimeters

Marion Rogers, 15, tests "world's most sensitive instrument." Apparatus duplicates actual flying conditions, even to the vibration of a plane.

A bomber drones through the fog returning from another successful raid over Germany. Tired but with a sense of a job well done, the pilot prepares to land his giant aircraft. A glance at the altimeter on the instrument panel tells him it is time to level off preparatory to starting his landing procedure. In a few moments the plane is on the ground, the motor silenced and the crew away to a well earned rest.

Without the sensitive altimeter to indicate its height, the plane might have crashed. On its hairline accuracy depends the life of the crew. On its accuracy, too, depends the successful bombing of their target. For whether at sea level or at 35,000 feet, the instrument must show altitudes or heights correctly.

Less than a year ago, the Kollsman Sensitive Altimeter was imported. No factory in Canada was capable of making "one of the world's most sensitive instruments," as it is called. In a few short months, a new plant was built, workers trained to work to an accuracy of .0002 of an inch, and now hundreds of altimeters are being turned out each month to be used by the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The Canadian product not only equals but surpasses in performance those made in other countries. Under the severe strain of sub-zero temperatures, imported models were not accurate enough to comply with the R.C.A.F. specifications. The Canadian instrument has been compensated to cut this allowable error—or tolerance as it is known to the trade—by 40 per cent.

It's Good News To Many When News is Lacking

Many Features Are Missing When Vacation Time Comes Along

It's been many a day since we turned out an issue of The Free Press with as little local news as this issue. And yet we have striven more for news items for our columns this week than in the case in most weeks. There's always some news items, and several headlines but as we write this on Wednesday afternoon the local items haven't developed a single headline.

And we are glad in many ways. During the past three weeks three of the local headlines gave the sad story of accidental deaths of three young people. We have no obituaries to write for this issue. Profits and flows are not recorded. So often when there is a lack of news it is good news for most of the community.

Acton Council holds only one meeting in July and School Board is in summer vacation and the Public Utilities Commission is not bound down to regular meetings. We can't have a bomber ceremony every week and sports have been almost extinct in the past three years. Many of the meetings of organizations after reported are cancelled for the summer months.

It's holiday time and perhaps we should be on vacation too but then there's election news of the candidates and parties that must be spread among the electorate in these weeks before the election and the newspaper is of course the logical place to seek such information. So if there's a dearth of news you usually find, there's plenty of news and views in other columns.

We have no apologies to make for lack of news. We don't make the news columns, but just assemble it and present it to you as it occurs. We're glad of the week as the present to find them so lacking in some respects.

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