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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

Growth Takes Money Now

Acton has the highest tax rate in its history this year but it doesn't mean that residents of Acton pay the highest taxes of any municipality. As a matter of fact, a comparison with any similar property in most any municipality will reveal taxes almost identical. Actonians have for many years enjoyed low assessments on their properties. It might be advantageous if consideration was given next year to an all over raise on all assessments in town with a view to providing a lower mill rate.

But to get back to this year's high rate. Many are prone to blame such a rate on members of Council. Our experience of watching Councils work for over twenty-five years is that Councils have little control over the rate other than compiling the figures. We have watched many delegations down through the years urge improvements in a community. We have done it ourselves and will continue to urge for progressive steps in community expansion within the ability of all to pay.

We are pleased that Acton Council this year set the rate at a level sufficiently high enough to meet expenditures and service, which has been deemed advisable. The rate will have the effect of bringing home the fact that no magic wand puts money into the hands of governing bodies, municipal, provincial or Dominion, but that funds for them all come from taxes levied on the public. The war years have given us a lot of false ideas of money values which require correction.

There is nothing alarming in the 63 mill rate in Acton. It need not be that high next year unless the ratepayers demand more services and municipal facilities. But Acton is growing and expanding and certain needs arise with this growth. Council has wisely provided to pay for this expansion as it goes along. It may come heavy this year but it is a viewpoint which will be best in the long term growth of the municipality.

Distributing the Honors

There is apparently some merit in the choice of Wardens in Halton County, which makes some allowance for the honor to follow a routine so that each municipality shares in a reasonable time. The Kincardine News says that not since 1894 has a Reeve of Kincardine been Warden of Bruce County.

The Fergus News-Record tops the Bruce record when it says that Wellington County Council has been functioning for over a hundred years and a Fergus Reeve has never been Warden of the County. We had no idea that the position was so hard to secure. In Halton County consideration is given to the municipality as well as the man, in making the selection of a Warden.

We have often argued against that plan of the municipality's turn and it can be overdone. But looking at other Counties where the municipality's turn is not considered, it appears that Halton's choice of Warden's gives better distribution of the honor.

Home Life is Under Fire

Divorce, delinquency, cruelty to children, illegitimacy, rise to new records. Yet these are only the surface eruptions of a blood stream that has lost its color and strength. The home life of nations is in decay. And this world disaster does not happen by chance. Godless forces are at work with a planned program to exploit and ride to power on moral confusion, weak will and self will, disunity and discontent.

What stands in their way? Homes—strength of nations, training ground of character, source of contentment, school of teamwork and God unity. The godless forces must use every resource to discredit and destroy this, their greatest enemy. Broken or lustreless homes yield disillusioned and heartsick men and women in whom a philosophy of bitterness can take

root. People without the security and anchor of a sound home drift vainly looking for some other satisfaction—someone else's wife, someone else's money, someone else's country. And the greed for power, appeasement, fear, insincerity, suspicion, irresponsibility—all these unmastered, go from the home to the conference table to affect world affairs.

But democracy, too, has a planned program for homes. Like its enemy's, this program does not happen by chance. It comes through change. Democracy's inspired ideology is for the breakfast table as well as for the peace table. That ideology is born from the control of God over human nature.

In homes which live democracy the battle is not between husband and wife or parents and children, but for a common service under God's direction. Such homes have no place in or for a philosophy of godless materialism or class warfare. From them flows a stream of healthy public opinion and action, creating the will for teamwork in industry, seeking and backing sound leadership and statesmanship, and swelling into a mighty positive force across the world.

\$291.45 Every Hour

Every hour of last January, Ontario citizens lost \$291.45 because of traffic accidents, not counting the cost of 733 injuries or the consequences of 42 deaths according to official police reports kept on file at the Department of Highways.

The total of \$216,842 property damage alone was 72 per cent higher than it was in January 1945. A similar increase this year would put Ontario's damage bill for traffic accidents at over \$500 per hour.

Protecting the Public

All citizens of small municipalities are bothered by canvassers for magazines and a multitude of other things. They are usually perfect strangers and there is the risk of losing any money given to such people. Through the war the nuisance was largely eliminated when everyone was busy at a war task, but there seems a new flood of door-to-door salesmen let loose again on the public.

In this connection we notice the Cobourg Town Council has adopted a resolution forwarded by the Chamber of Commerce getting forth that in the general interest it is felt that all solicitors and canvassers for charities, magazine subscriptions, veterans calendars, etc. should be compelled to obtain a written permit from the chief of police or town clerk. The letter to the Council points out the fact that at the present time in numerous cities and towns across Canada, canvassers for fake and spurious charities are playing their illicit trade, and that while Cobourg has been singularly fortunate in escaping the attention of these racketeers, it is well to play safe.

It might be well if such a plan were put into effect here and it would be surprising the amount of money that could be saved citizens by such protection without any decrease in the service they received.

No More Beer for Archie

"I make \$1.45 1/2 an hour as a metal finisher, but I would rather work for 90 cents again and have lower prices. I used to spend a dollar or two every week for beer, but not any more."

So said Hudson Autoworker Archie LaFave to Edward O'Brien, Detroit bureau chief of Newsweek Magazine. LaFave, who happens to be a union chief, was one of a dozen auto workers picked at random recently and asked: "Do you favor another round of pay increases?" Not all wanted beer—bread, milk, medical expenses were also mentioned—but none wanted to pump more air into the U.S. inflation-balloon with further pay increase demands.

Detroit auto workers have apparently learned the hard way what reasoning men across Canada and the U.S. have been trying to warn against. They know now it's not the figures on the pay cheque that count; but rather those figures in relation to others on retail price tags.

And, union economic theorists notwithstanding, the auto workers who earn the wages and pay the bills know that unreasonable wage demands lead inevitably to price increases. Financial Post.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Lenten season has started! Just six weeks until Easter.

A man wrapped up in himself, they say, makes a pretty small package and a bundle of nerves.

A few days of warm sunshine certainly helps to shorten the snow banks and renew the hope that winter has passed its peak of fury—even if the hope does not live long.

We're breathing easier this week with arrival of another part of shipment of our newspaper supply and the notification that the balance is on the way. It's the first comfortable Monday we've had in weeks.

Scout Groups in Canada are sponsored by churches and other organizations as follows: Anglican, 360; Baptist, 68; Hebrew, 10; Latter Day Saints, 27; Lutheran, 12; Presbyterian, 102; Roman Catholic, 178; United, 256; other denominations, 50; schools, 27; Canadian Legion, 23; Community, 6; Hospital, crippled and handicapped children, and Service Clubs, 123. Very appropriately the slogan for this week Boy Scout and Girl Guide Week is "Theirs is the Future."

RE-FUELLING IN THE AIR

For the first time, about 10 years ago, attempts were made to refuel an aircraft in flight. But they met with insufficient success, and there was no guarantee of its being done with safety in commercial aviation. On the other hand, technicians and engineers were thinking out ways of increasing the length of non-stop flight. It seems that British experts have now been so successful in improving re-fueling in the air that its use in practice seems to be assured. During recent experiments, two "Lancaster" aircraft were used, one as a "tanker" and the other as a "commercial aircraft." At an altitude of 12,000 feet, the aircraft were connected and a hose pipeline was let down from the "tanker." As soon as this was attached to the other aircraft, petrol was pumped in, 1,000 gallons being supplied in about 8 minutes. This would be sufficient to enable the Lancaster commercial aircraft to fly a further 1,000 miles on its non-stop flight. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and air transport companies are taking the greatest interest in the success of these experiments.

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