

The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

A Progressive Step

We were quite a little pleased last week that Acton Council took the initiative in sanctioning construction of wartime houses in the community to the number of fifty. We say that after we have weighed all our own arguments against the project and we are free to admit there are many.

The fact is that Acton has reached the saturation point in expansion unless housing expansion is undertaken. We don't believe fifty houses will meet the present needs of the community but it will at least be a start. There is no point in seeking more industrial establishments for Acton until some steps are taken on the housing problem. Hundreds of people residing outside of Acton are now travelling from places where they have living quarters to their work in Acton for the simple reason that houses are not available to bring their families to the community.

During the past year about forty houses have been under construction with some of them completed sufficiently to enable living in them. It has been a good start under difficult circumstances but such progress is much too slow. We hope to be able to furnish more details about the wartime houses under consideration from time to time and will be glad to pass it on to our readers. At the present it appears the only solution to an acute local problem.

Private Charity on the Decline

One of the many disturbing tendencies of this era is the decline of private charity. There are two reasons for this and they are closely allied.

Firstly, the people who have always, in the past, contributed heavily toward charity no longer have the ability to do so; high taxation has pretty well swallowed up their surplus funds.

Secondly charitable activities are falling more and more into the hands of the state. Much of the help that used to be given privately from private funds is now given publicly from public funds.

What we have today, in fact, is a kind of coercive humanitarianism. The state has established itself as a middleman between the fortunate and the less fortunate, taking from one class and giving to the other. The new kind of charity, which is collective and compulsory is effectively driving out the old kind of charity, which was personal and voluntary.

It is becoming increasingly difficult in Canada for individuals to make money above and beyond what they actually need. Many people maintain this is a sign of progress. But it works sharply against the private charities, since they depend, in a very large measure on the existence of a class which is able and willing to give away money.

Private charities are being harmed in another way, also related to government policy. As interest rates are forced down and kept down—cheap money being an obsession with most present-day governments—private, charitable, religious and educational organizations find their endowments insufficient to keep them going.

The long range effect of these policies—high taxes, low interest rates and extensive "social services"—is obvious. Private charity will dwindle to the vanishing point. Public charity, which is not really charity at all, will dominate the lives of the poor and handicapped. These people will, we suspect, find themselves, paying a high price for the beneficence of the Almighty State.—Calgary Herald.

In War or Peace

The Canadian Red Cross will make its annual appeal to the people of Canada during the month of March.

The sum needed to carry on the program of the Society for the year 1947, is \$5,000,000. Of this amount, the Ontario Branch will ask for \$2,000,000. No organization in Canada has done as more con-

spicuous job during the trying years of war than the Canadian Red Cross and no organization has been more faithfully sustained here.

The program for the present year will turn to the domestic needs of the Canadian people. Prominent among the program items is the establishment of blood donor service to hospitals, which will ensure blood transfusions, free of charge, to anyone needing them. This is, in itself, a tremendous undertaking, but it has great potentialities in safeguarding the health of the public. Many other branches of health service will be inaugurated.

Freedom . . . or Food

What has come over this world of ours? How can human beings strike to tie up food and watch their fellow men go hungry? Food has become an ideological weapon. Slaves want nothing so much as freedom, but free men who are hungry want nothing so much as a full stomach. The turn to government for help, willing—if needs must—to become slaves again. The ruthless promise or interruption of world food supplies can thus be used to split nations and force acceptance of new and abhorrent ways of government and life.

America has whipsnapped lately in both directions. For fourteen years, "a little left of centre," she tried government controls. Result—bare shelves of black markets and a "Republican landslide" back to free economy.

Great Britain is trying half-way measures, giving up a little freedom for a little security. She is a little socialized and a little hungry. But when ideologists goaded transport workers to "get the bosses on the run" in London, they refused to move food and the government had to move in troops. No nation can long balance half-way. And since Britain is not likely to swing back, she may swing all the way left and sell out all freedom for security.

But men—men guided by God—have found it possible to enjoy both freedom and security. Joseph, great spiritual statesman, dared to speak freely in a pagan court. But they did not put him in prison and, under God's guidance, he saved Egypt from famine. Moses, guided by God, led the Children of Israel to freedom and they were fed with manna.

A prairie farmer, guided by God, cut his wheat and fed his cattle, while neighbors, guided by greed, lost both crops and cattle in the drought. Canadian bakers who followed guidance kept war-time bread at pre-war prices. Men or Moral Re-armament working for freedom in lands of scarcity, find packages of food sent by guided friends back home.

How can men be fooled into thinking they must trade freedom for security when—under the direction of their Creator—they can always have plenty of both? What a chance for the great countries which grow the world's food and can thereby make or break its freedom, and confirm or deny its God!

EDITORIAL NOTES

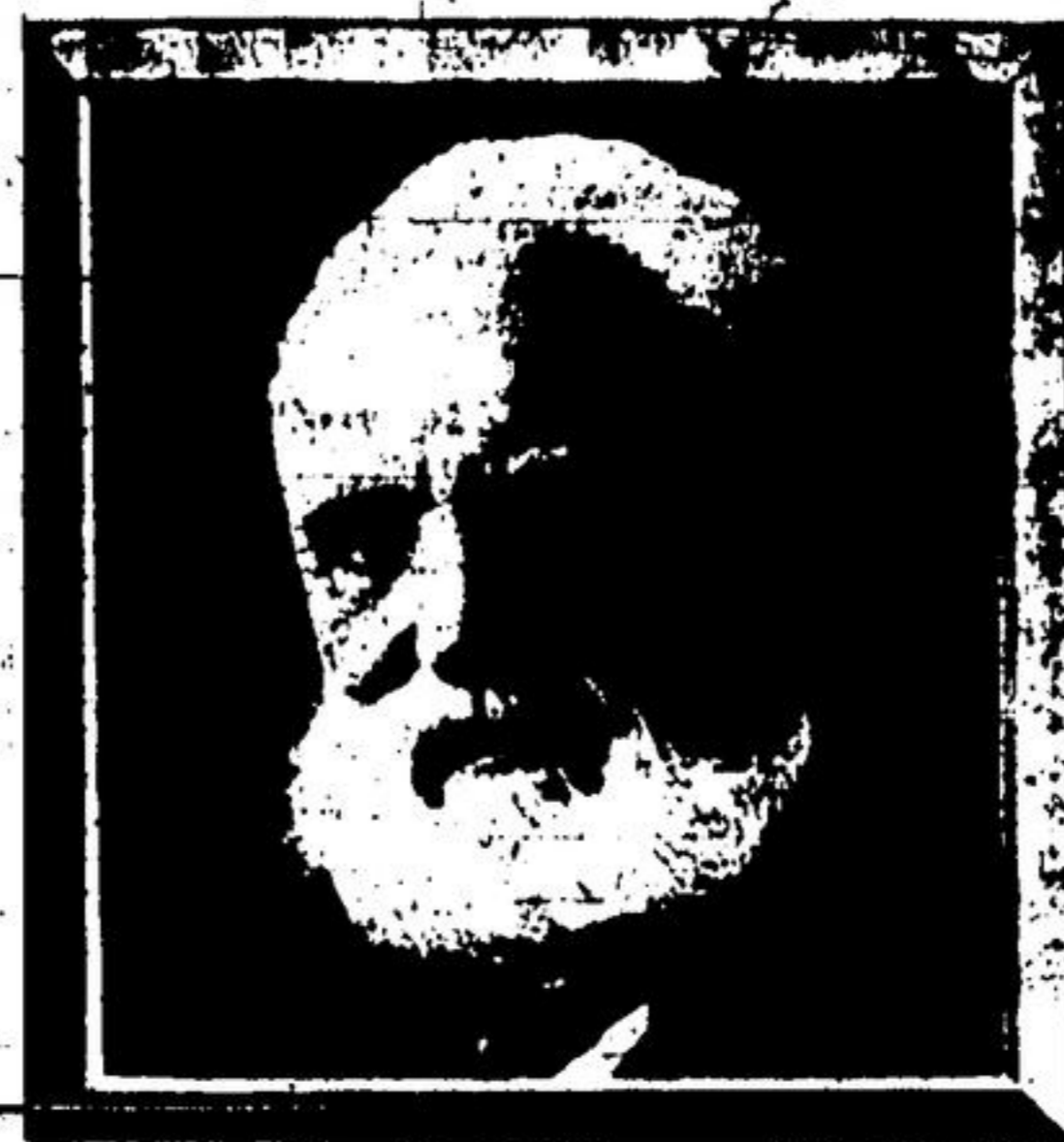
In the United Kingdom the output of coal per man is 1.2 tons, in Nova Scotia it is 1.4, in Alberta 3.9 and in the United States 5.7 tons.

The town of Chesley has been left a legacy of \$5000. What a gift—at a time when Councillors are struggling to find ways of meeting higher costs without raising taxes too high.

According to one who is supposed to know, the claim is made that the average woman can take on: look at another female and, if subsequently asked, can state what the said woman was wearing, the color of her hair, whether it is artificial or natural, the color of her eyes, her approximate height, weight and age, also whether she has well shaped hands, limbs, etc. On the other hand, states this student of human nature, a husband can live with his wife for years and under cross-examination can testify only the approximate color of her hair, her height, weight, etc.

We might as well reconcile ourselves to the removal of price control, advises the Swift Current Sun. "Price control is coming off. It will involve price adjustments, upwards and downwards. If this is to remain a free country, these price adjustments have to be accepted. No government of a free country can guarantee to keep prices at any level, merely to make the public more contented. The wisest course for us all is to hold our horses. It is for us to remember why price control was put on, and not to get a wild idea that the government has made some sort of contract with us to keep prices and the cost of living from rising."

An effort is being made to launch a new political organization in Canada under the name of the "Union of Electors of Ontario and Quebec." Particulars are given in full in a full page advert in the Renfrew Mercury. Headquarters are given as Blind River, Ontario, and the assistant secretary is a woman. The advertisement contains a coupon to be forwarded to the M.P. for the riding in which the elector signing resides. Another feature is "What to tell the M.P.," giving in detail what the elector is to reply when asked by the M.P. why the coupon was sent to him. The explanation of the purpose of the Union of Electors contains a lot of words, but we do not fancy that the parliamentary representatives will be much impressed. Barrie Examiner.



Alexander Graham Bell

CENTENNIAL

1847 MARCH 3 1947

Next Monday telephone people everywhere will pay tribute to this great scientist, inventor, teacher and humanitarian. . . To him we owe our modern telephone system which unites the peoples of the world. . . His tradition of public service continues to guide the telephone industry.



THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CANADA

Carroll's Coffee and Tea advertisement featuring various products like Peas, Figs, Prunes, Soup, Macaroni, and Oats with prices and promotional offers.

Business Directory

Business Directory listing various professionals such as Dr. W. G. C. Kenney, Dr. D. A. Garrett, Dr. A. J. Buchanan, Dr. George A. Sirrs, C. F. Leatherland, B.A., and others.

Nicol Bros. Monuments and Cemetery Lettering advertisement with contact information for W. Coles at Aggar's Coal Office.