



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

The Biggest Building Year in Acton

A hurried survey of building in Acton this year indicates that about seventy-five homes will be under construction in various parts of the town. Fifty of these will be in the Wartime Housing project and available for tenancy while the others will be for those who will own their homes. In addition there are likely to be some business buildings erected. The present season will likely be the biggest building year in Acton's history.

True, one may argue that the present is not the most opportune time to build but Acton's growth has been pent up for some time and can no longer wait for attention. During the war and for two years since, workers in Acton industries have been driving into Acton to work for a distance of fifteen miles. Three families are living in many instances where one family should occupy the whole quarters. The growth of Acton's industries indicate that even the 1947 program of home building will not meet the present needs but will only alleviate the situation temporarily. At present two buses operate on regular schedule to the Beardmore Co. plant and in addition many workers use cars loaded with other workers residing in the same district. There are 1000 employees in Acton's seventeen industries. The houses erected this year will give the town a truer index of population and certainly be helpful to employees and those who desire to reside in Acton. Many towns of five times the population size of Acton do not nearly compare with Acton in industrial production and workers and wages.

The Price of Fear

Nearly two years after the end of the worst war in history, the world is still spending \$27.4 billions annually on armaments and has almost 19 million men in uniform. A military survey by the New York Times reveals. Despite the disappearance of Germany, Japan and Italy as traditionally great military powers, it is estimated that there are probably more men under arms today than in 1939 and that \$10 billions more is being spent on armaments.

That is truly an enormous weight to carry and one wonders how long some of the nations can continue to bear it. It is almost entirely unproductive, a consumer of goods, services and manpower—the world so urgently needs.

It is a tremendous price to pay for fear, but there is little hope of any reduction so long as the rest of the world knows nothing of what goes on behind the iron curtain.

If the atom bomb is only remotely as effective as it is believed to be, the greater proportion of the present expenditures on armaments will probably be sheer waste. Even without anything approaching this radically new weapon, practically all the armaments produced up to a few years before the last war were just so much junk when it started. Until the forces of Britain, the U.S. and Russia were completely re-equipped, Germany, who had armed after 1934, had everything her own way. — Financial Post.

Country Store Boom States an Ottawa Release

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in an official release at the end of April reported that country general store sales in March were 18 per cent. above those in February and 6 per cent. higher than in March a year ago. Using the yardstick of index figures with the period 1935-39 at an even 100, the latter comparisons were, 178.4 for March, 151.1 for February this year and 168.9 for March 1946. And since January this year the general advance was 8.2 per cent. over the similar period last year. The release would infer that since sales were up, country stores were enjoying a higher margin of profit.

Several things contribute to this increased turnover, such as a high level of employment, greater production and a backlog of buying power. More goods are coming on the market long waited for by

the consuming public. This trend will continue if production is maintained. It is the normal course of supply and demand. But to assume that country stores are reaping larger profits from this upswing in volume is not logical argument. Most of them have been put to increased expense and are now showing returns right back into the business.

Country storekeepers have had to employ extra help or work longer hours to fill out government forms and pay higher taxes. They have had to take much valuable time to explain to customers the hundred and one government orders that change prices almost weekly. All this cuts into profits. But they have gone along putting in new shelving and refrigerator equipment and notably have been quite voluntarily doing more advertising in the local press. This too is debited to profits. It is all done to satisfy customers and maintain confidence. As a class few men are doing more than the country storekeeper to get our economy back on an even keel. — Rowmanville Statesman.

A Battle for Everyone

Ontario is now in a grim and steady battle against the traffic accident toll and is calling for recruits.

This is the time of year when the traffic toll mounts most rapidly, so safety efforts across the Province are being intensified with the hope of keeping the death and personal injury losses below the tragic totals reached in 1941 when 801 persons were killed and nearly 15,000 injured.

The outlook is not too hopeful. Traffic accidents are already climbing rapidly and the worst accident months of the year are yet to come. Traffic is now at a record high and Ontario has over 1,100,000 licensed drivers. There has been a sharp increase in "collision" accidents due to the "conflict" between new and old cars, on the roads; new cars are involved in a surprising number of accidents.

The one bright spot is that Ontario may be able to "hold the line" against the rising accident hazards; but it will take a united and continued effort.

That, at least, is the opinion of the Hon. George H. Doucet, minister of highways. Last year, despite a great increase in traffic and a record tourist trade, the provincial death and injury totals were considerably below 1941 and the 5-year average up to and including that year. But Mr. Doucet doesn't think that is any excuse for complacency.

"Not only must each of us drive safely and walk safely ourselves, we have to use our personal influence to keep everybody safety conscious," he declared.

What is "Inspired Democracy?"

The word democracy has suffered much discredit from two causes. First, it has been misused and twisted by extremists of right and left who have made it by turns a butt for their gibes and a cloak for their totalitarian aims. Second, it has sometimes stood for nothing much except inefficiency because we, who inherited the benefits of democracy, have failed to live in a way that makes democracy possible.

For democracy in its true sense can only be made up of those who deliberately prefer the good of the whole to their own selfishness. Its essence is not the wide sharing of privilege but the wide sharing of responsibility. The strength of democracy is thus the strength of human character. But the evidence of history teaches that, even at its best, human character is not enough.

And so to-day we must look beyond the purely human conception of democracy to the further vision of an inspired democracy in which every individual not only contributes his own best but is also instructed and guided by God Himself.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Not much doubt about the children getting a holiday on the 24th of May this year.

Examination time is almost here and the test now comes on the application to study that has been made throughout the year.

Vacation time will soon be coming around again and then there's the usual public holidays which mark most every month throughout the summer.

It's going to be a rush this year to have the maples out in full leaf before May 24th. And it's going to be a rush too for farmers and gardeners to catch up on seeding and planting.

Naming it "Earsaver," a California firm is marketing a remote volume control which can be plugged into any radio to tune out commercials from across the room. Might also be called a "step saver."

Plastics have caught up with the lowly mouse. A U.S. company offers four-hole trap, with arched fluting, made of phenolic molding compound; claims plastic does not retain odors, can be washed when necessary.

A move has been defeated in committee at Ottawa to have the name of the party included with the candidate's name on the ballot, as well as his occupation. We would see more virtue in knowing a man's political affiliation than in knowing his employment. — Chesley Enterprise.

The Quality Tea "SALADA" ORANGE PEKOE

A COMPLETE EYE SERVICE by WM. SHILMAN R. O. at A. T. BROWN'S Next door to Free Press Office. ACTON MILL ST. 206W. EVERY FIRST THURSDAY EACH MONTH. HOURS 11-6. EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT. NEXT CALL JUNE 5th. Repairs promptly mailed. HEAD OFFICE 340 BATHURST ST., TORONTO.

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