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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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## EDITORIAL

### Working Together

One of the finest examples of community spirit is being shown these days in Acton in the erection of a Boy Scout house on the school grounds. There is being built a frame building for the local Scout organization with all voluntary labour. The Scouts didn't have enough money to erect a building but it was estimated they could with some donations secure the material.

Local builders came to the rescue and voluntary helpers gave of their time on off days and it's surprising what is being accomplished as they work together. With a little more good weather it appears the Scouts will have a roof over their head for the winter and a shelter to meet in. We understand the plan is to complete the work as far as the funds are available. Much will have to be done by the boys themselves.

The part that has been most pleasing is to see men and boys working together in such a project. With such a spirit in a community it speaks volumes for the present leadership and augurs well for the future citizens of this community. Incidentally, the newly-elected Reeve and Deputy-Reeve and the retiring Deputy-Reeve and several of those who will hold public office next year are among the leaders and workers.

### Early Christmas Shopping Urged

Doing Christmas Shopping early gets support from a new quarter this year with Department of Highways safety officials adding their voices to those of merchants and others directly concerned about approaching yuletide congestion.

Accidents are almost certain to increase on urban streets during the fast-minute rush states J. B. Bickell, Registrar of Motor Vehicles. The only thing a sensible person can do is cut down the danger to himself and others by starting now to finish up Christmas shopping ahead of time.

The day before Christmas is invariably the worst day of the year for traffic accidents, that would occur under less distracting circumstances. Early darkness increases the danger, especially to the many people who are out on the streets on foot. Slippery pavements and poor visibility make things worse.

Shop early and make this Christmas a safe Christmas.

### We're Not Going to Starve

Every little while someone tries to scare the world out of its pants by solemnly declaring we are on the verge of starvation, says The Financial Post. Between us and oblivion, these pessimists moan, is only a few inches of irreplaceable top soil, and that layer is being speedily washed down to the sea by our rivers, streams and winds.

It is true in this country and others as well, a lot of good soil is being washed. Undoubtedly we should be planting more trees, terracing more slopes and building more water conserving dams. But to suggest that world famine is just around the corner, that the human race is increasing far faster than we can hope to feed it, is nonsense.

All these theories of shortage, including that of the famed English preacher Malthus early in the last century, are based on the false assumption that an acre of soil is capable of producing just so much food and that the fertility of soil has a definite limit.

Both claims have been disproved again and again. Much will depend upon what type of food an acre is used to produce.

In this world of ours there are plenty of real dangers to be faced without adding bogeys. Science, sound agriculture and better distribution should have no difficulty in keeping the wolf from our door for many a century yet.

### Municipal Affairs Settled

Municipal elections are all over for another year. The electors have made their choice and now the democratic thing to do is abide by that choice and give those who serve every possible assistance in carrying out their duties. We like these early elections that leave the way open to enjoy the Christmas and New Year holiday time.

Another advantage too, is that last year's officials have an opportunity to clear up any unfinished business and the new officials get an opportunity to study their duties before taking over and make any inquiry that may be helpful.

The honor roll for November included the following names: Bertie Speight, Edith Nicklin, Jennie Gurney, Helise Smyth, Berle Wallace, Hattie Noble, Ertle McDonald, Mabel Soper, Ernest Wilson, Mary Goodeve, Maud Collins, Florence Soper, Ida Laird, Joale Stephenson, Ethel Coleman, Myrtle Matthews, Howard Brown, Ena Pearson, Harold Nicklin, Jennie Smith, Philip Holmes, Jean Grant, Hazel Mann, Vida Foster, Myrtle Cook, Ruby Clark, Frank Havill, Myrtle Dills, Irene Mullin, Laura Moore, Charis Matthews, Martha Storey, Myrtle Soper, Alex McQueen, Blanch Chisholm, Merle Frick, Florrie Speight, Vincent Goodeve, Laura Coleman, Hazel Matthews, Emma Tovell, John McDonald, Fern Brown, Jimmie McQueen, Leonard Warden, Bette Arnold, Matthew McCann.

### Every Woman's Opportunity

The ways in which women serve their country are important. War underlines this but it is equally true of peace. What a country does to the life of women is not always so fully understood. The life of women under a totalitarian regime differs vastly from that within a democracy. Under the Nazis, the old German ideal of children, church and cooking was played up, but this good if limited role was used to restrain women from taking part in women's organizations, particularly those with international affiliations. Among the Soviets the opposite extreme was followed; women were collectivized and viewed as sources of labor, whether in farm or factory. While different in emphasis both these totalitarian systems are alike in viewing the life of women, as indeed of all citizens, as subservient to the will of the state. Their duties are assigned to them not discovered and chosen by them.

What of women in our own culture? The heart of democracy is freedom, and in large measure our women are still free to work out their own destiny instead of having it dictated to them. Sound homes are the foundation of the democratic state, but the self-centred home can be as much a menace as the self-centred individual. The modern woman is pulled in two seemingly contrary directions, in toward home and family on the one hand, out into the larger world of affairs on the other. This is woman's dilemma, it is also her challenge and her opportunity. Her care for home and family needs to be deepened and freed from the corrosion of selfishness. This capacity to care needs to be released into a world that is starving for hope and for new ways of living. If women care enough to feel responsible for the crisis of the world-to-day they will begin to discover how their homes can help to provide the cure. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin and watched the cake baking in the oven at the same time. She had learned how to integrate her personal with her public life so that no part was neglected. Women who work to solve this problem can help to save a crumbling civilization.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

The shortest days of the year are with us and also the last days of 1948.

Not many can recall a finer or longer autumn than we have had this year. Here it is mid-December and no winter weather yet. (This is written on Monday).

It is rather interesting to learn that the Royal Commission appointed in 1945 to study educational matters in Ontario may not report before next midsummer. Judging from past predictions our guess is it may not report then.

Washing machines are rolling off Canadian assembly lines at a record rate; it reached a 1,000-a-day clip in September, according to The Financial Post. Production for first 9 months of this year zoomed 53% above the same period last year.

Elimination of the black-outs in Hydro are certainly helpful in these short days. Other types of lighting are not quite as convenient. But remember that there is still a shortage of Hydro and we may have more power interruptions if saving is not practiced.

The days for Christmas shopping are down to 13 and it can't be put off longer. Visit your local stores now while selection is at its best and you'll find ample stocks and courteous service. A perusal of the advertisements in your local newspaper will point to the shortest route for wanted articles.

The citizen with a good home is taxed to the hilt. His slipshod neighbor pays about a third of the taxes and yet enjoys exactly the same civil services for which the other fellow is paying. This kind of inequity can only go so far. When civic costs continue to mount, as they have been doing, the tax load on property owners becomes heavier and heavier. If the tax rate doesn't go up the assessments do. Eventually the penalty of owning a good home, in these high-priced times, could become too heavy for any working man.—Vancouver Province.

## Recollections of Acton

### BACK IN 1898

From the Issue of the Free Press of December 21st, 1898

The honor roll for November included the following names: Bertie Speight, Edith Nicklin, Jennie Gurney, Helise Smyth, Berle Wallace, Hattie Noble, Ertle McDonald, Mabel Soper, Ernest Wilson, Mary Goodeve, Maud Collins, Florence Soper, Ida Laird, Joale Stephenson, Ethel Coleman, Myrtle Matthews, Howard Brown, Ena Pearson, Harold Nicklin, Jennie Smith, Philip Holmes, Jean Grant, Hazel Mann, Vida Foster, Myrtle Cook, Ruby Clark, Frank Havill, Myrtle Dills, Irene Mullin, Laura Moore, Charis Matthews, Martha Storey, Myrtle Soper, Alex McQueen, Blanch Chisholm, Merle Frick, Florrie Speight, Vincent Goodeve, Laura Coleman, Hazel Matthews, Emma Tovell, John McDonald, Fern Brown, Jimmie McQueen, Leonard Warden, Bette Arnold, Matthew McCann.

The teachers were T. T. Moore, Principal, Miss C. McPhail, R. F. Featherstone, E. H. McQueen.

The heaviest fall of snow for 22 years fell on Sunday night.

The stone work of the new power house is almost completed.

The fifty-fourth anniversary of the Methodist Church was held last Sunday.

Last Thursday the nominations for the Legislature were confirmed at Milton before Sheriff Clements, the Returning Officer.

John R. Barber was nominated by H. P. Lawson, Georgetown; Col. Kerns by Dr. Webster of Norval.

The Trustees of the Board of Education meeting ordered 24 double desks with separate sittings and four rear separate seats for the new fifth department.

## BACK IN 1928

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 6th, 1928

Rev. A. Lloyd Smith, M.A., B.D., the popular minister of Grace Church, Brampton, will receive the degree of Doctor of Divinity at Victoria University to-morrow evening.

On November 24 a double wedding was solemnized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Easley of Campbellville, when their daughter Marjorie Maud was married to Mr. Nelson Bousfield and their daughter Anna to Mr. J. A. Pogue, of Toronto.

On Monday evening about 100 of the Young People's Society of the Presbyterian Church paid a fraternal visit to Milton Young People's Society.

The election on Monday had a large vote recorded. The majority for Amos Mason as Reeve was 96. Councillors are Theford, Nelson, Hansen and Harrison. For school trustees, Mrs. Havill, Mrs. H. S. Wilson, George Hall, E. W. Masters.

Mrs. Robert Laing who spent the summer and fall in the west has returned home.

Mrs. Ralph Swackhamer, of Hamilton, sustained painful cuts and bruises about the face when their automobile and another machine collided on the Guelph-Hamilton highway.

**DIED**  
FRANCIS — At Toronto General Hospital, on Wednesday, December 5, 1928, Isaac Edwin Francis in his 76th year.

An editor once wired George Bernard Shaw for his opinion of Babe Ruth, and the question came back, "Who is she?"

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Physician and Surgeon  
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Office in Symon Block, Mill St., Acton  
Office Phone 78—Residence Church St., Phone 150

DR. D. A. GARRETT  
Physician and Surgeon  
Frederick Street, Acton  
Formerly Dr. Nelson's office  
Office Phone 238 Residence 243

**DENTAL**  
DR. A. J. BUCHANAN  
Dental Surgeon  
Office—Leishman Bldg., Mill St.  
Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
X-RAY  
TELEPHONE 148

DR. GEORGE A. SIRRS  
Dental Surgeon  
Mill St., corner Frederick, Acton  
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
TELEPHONE 19

L. WILSON  
Doctor of Chiropractic  
Electro-Therapist  
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Phone 303  
Hours 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**LEGAL**  
C. F. LEATHERLAND, B.A.  
ACTON  
Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public  
Office 22 Phones Residence 183

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Successors to JENKINS & HARDY  
1305 Metropolitan Bldg.  
44 Victoria St., Toronto  
Eg. 9131

**VETERINARY**  
B. D. YOUNG, V.S., B.V.Sc.  
Veterinary Surgeon  
Office: Brookville, Ontario  
Phone—Milton 1464

F. G. OAKES, V.S., B.V.Sc.  
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To Stratford—10:44 a.m.; 12:44 p.m.; 2:59 p.m.; 5:29 p.m.; 7:24 p.m.; 8:14 p.m.; 9:11 p.m.

To London—10:44 a.m.; 2:59 p.m.; 4:52 p.m.; 7:24 p.m.; 8:14 p.m.

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b—Sunday and Holidays  
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