

The Acton Free Press
 Published Every Thursday at Acton, Ontario.
 Authorized as second class mail, Post Office, Department, Ottawa.

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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 Editorial and Business Office 124
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EDITORIAL

The Challenge of Christmas

Christmas! A Babe—a Star—a radiance that lighted the world—a song of triumph upon the ears and in the hearts of men.

But the first Christmas was a trying and a painful time. Mary and Joseph were doubtless gossiped about by the wagging tongues of their small town. They lived under a dictatorship in which human life was cheap. Their income was more than likely in the lower third of the nation. When it came time for the Baby, they had to go on a forced trip to meet the demands of their government. Whether the Baby lived or died was of no concern to the society in which they existed. As far as their own people were concerned, Mary and Joseph could make out for themselves.

There is pain in life. There is a Cross. There is also a Power available for those who care to accept it. It is the only force which can make the new world of our dreams come true. For it alone is enough to eliminate the massed greeds, fears and hatreds which wrecked our old world, and to cure the chaos man has made.

How different history might have been if people and leaders of nations alike were stirred by the spirit of the Crib to some other ambition than personal power and national expansion.

Somehow and quickly, we have got to re-discover the adventurous faith that first led men to a Star, which lighting life from within may reach out to illumine the world—to that song of triumph that can become a universal reality when it is expressed in our personal and national life.

Peak Farm Prices But...

Beef cattle prices in Ontario, states an official report, are now five times the prewar level. That is quite true, but, points out The Financial Post sensational information of that kind is hardly fair to the farmer without the explanation that in years just before the war, prices were abnormally low.

During most of the 'thirties' beef cattle prices in this country were at the lowest level in 25 years. Conditions started to improve with the first reduction in U.S. tariffs in 1935, but it was not fairly well into the war period that farm prices generally approached normal levels.

No matter what consumers may think of the enormous increase in those levels since that time, in fairness to producers they should remember the vastly different situation that prevailed not so many years before.

No Pride in this Record

With seven multiple-death accidents killing a combined total of 21 people, fatal injuries from motor vehicle accidents in the month of November have broken all Ontario records for that month with a count of at least 89 known victims, 17 more than in November of last year.

Abruptly halting the postwar trend toward lower vehicle death-rates, this tragic one-month toll brings the number of Ontario traffic victims this year up to 672 compared with 667 for the same 11 months of 1947. Until this last month motor vehicle deaths had been fewer in number and much fewer in proportion to miles driven than they were last year or in 1941.

Let There Be No Waste

Most everyone is pleased that for the present the Hydro blackouts are not occurring. Not many are concerned over what has made the improved condition or who is responsible. The point that it seems must be kept constantly in mind is that there is every need for continued caution in the use of Hydro if this more pleasant situation is to be maintained.

Many folks have found that the compulsory saving made on Hydro has been most helpful in reducing their account. Without a doubt we have become very wasteful in the use of this

great utility that up until the present has seemed available in unlimited quantities and at very moderate cost.

During the holiday season there may be a tendency to use more power in the household. It is well to keep the present shortage in mind at all times. Only by careful watchfulness and avoiding of waste can we get over the present situation and keep the industries rolling and the pay envelopes up to normal.

"Keep My Name Out Of The Paper"

The St. Thomas Times Journal recently carried an editorial entitled "Keep My Name Out Of The Paper". It dealt with the continual requests that editors receive from persons who have fallen foul of the law, have found themselves in trouble or have been up in court and want their names left out of the paper.

The St. Thomas paper quite correctly pointed out that such requests are the bane of every newspaper editor's existence—particularly since they very seldom have any effect. There may have been a time when influences could be brought to bear on some sections of the press in matters of this kind, but that time, happily is long since past.

It is one of the most amazing phenomena of modern times that everyone who gets into trouble, has had bad luck, has been framed, or is the innocent victim of circumstances. If the requests received each court day are to be believed, no one is ever guilty of anything. What transpires before the magistrate is all just one big mistake. The people appearing there and sometimes being convicted are not what they seem to be at all.

They were not drunk. They did not really assault anyone. The cheque they cashed and which bounced was not really rubber at all. And so on ad infinitum and ad nauseam.

Everything was just a terrible mistake. The magistrate did not mean to be unfair, of course, but he just did not understand. And if the story should get into the paper they would be ruined. The multiplicity of dire consequences likely to accompany publication of these unfortunate events is enough to shake even a hard boiled editor.

The time to think of consequences is before committing the act. The detection of crime and misdemeanors and the punishment meted out are matters of public concern.

Farm Mechanization

One of the most dangerous delusions of the times is that which assumes that increasing mechanization of agriculture offers a remedy for the growing pressure of population on a dwindling capital of arable land.

Serious students—even so eminent a man as Sir John Boyd Orr, whose fame has spread over the whole world—point out that there are well over two thousand million people on the planet, and not enough land to feed more than three-quarters of that number on the basis of present production per acre. That is the problem.

Mechanization of agriculture has been one of the greatest blessings of the human race. It has raised the standard of living of the farmer, while cheapening the food of the cities—but it has its limits. The United States Department of Agriculture calculates that one man can now produce as many bushels of wheat as eight did in 1800.

Still more alarming is the fact that the age of working farmers increases steadily, as fewer young men remain on the land. A farmer who has died of old age cannot drive even the finest tractor. It is about time to wake up to facts. Within a very few years the United States will do no more than feed its own population.

The thought is commended to those who protest so loudly against the present high prices of food that the time is in sight when the difficulty is not going to be to pay for food, but to find food to buy.

Have we made life in cities so attractive that there will soon be not enough workers to feed the cities? It begins to seem quite probable.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Just another seven days for shopping and just another week until Christmas.

Bracebridge has installed a new and unique police alarm system. At the top of the flagpole on the Town Hall, a red electric light has been installed which flashes on when the police phone is called and remains on until the receiver at the phone has been lifted. Might be a practical method for use here when police are about town during the day or night.

Who "discovered" Monday as wash-day, and when was the discovery made? An effort is being made to solve this problem. But the quest is useless. The day is claimed for washing the home linen, with the tenacity displayed in the spring and fall housecleaning. "No family convenience or minor family catastrophe has been able to change it," declared the Fort Erie Times-Review, "and no mere male has ever successfully argued that another day would do as well."

Recollections of Acton
BACK IN 1898

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 15, 1908

Electrician Reynolds is wiring the stores on Mill Street this week for the electric light.

Acton Fire Brigade announce their first ball and supper for Monday, 26th of December, in the town hall.

Most of the electric light poles have been put in and the line men are now putting up the wires. There will be 55 electric lights on the streets.

Contractor Evans is making improvements to the altar of St. Joseph's Church. It will be extended the entire width of the alcove and otherwise improved.

The new postage stamp designed to mark the advent of Imperial Penny Postage has been issued and several have already been received by Actonians.

Miss Evelyn McKeown of Toronto, daughter of the late Thomas McKeown, formerly of Acton, has been engaged teacher of Haddockburn School for next year.

Acton's electric light four per cent debentures have been sold for \$1,037.

DIED
 BALMER—At his residence, Oakville, on Sunday, December 11th, Robert Balmer, Postmaster of Oakville.

BACK IN 1928

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 13, 1928

The Firemen's Annual Ball and Supper drew its usual good attendance last Friday evening.

At the evening services of the United Church last Sunday the orchestra under the leadership of Mr. Charles Mason, provided splendid music for the service.

Mrs. Geo. T. Coe, died at her home in Georgetown on Tuesday. Mrs. Coe lived with her husband in Acton for a time and many years in Limehouse.

The Men's Class of the United Church Sunday School, Georgetown, had a fraternal visit to the Acton Sunday School. Mr. McLaren, the teacher, conducted the teaching hour.

The Suburban Oil and Gas Co. have now reached a depth of 1000 feet in their drilling operations on their property about two miles west of Acton.

DIED
 TARZWELL—At Loxville, on Sunday, December 9, 1928, John Tarzwell in his 60th year.

MARSHALL—At St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, on Tuesday, Dec. 11, 1928, Agnes Mabel Therox, beloved wife of Richard Earl Marshall, in her 39th year.

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SPECIAL — SILVER RIBBON
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LIBBY'S TOMATO JUICE 2 20-OZ TINS 23c
 FIVE ROBES COOK BOOKS EA. 40c
 GREEN GIANT FANCY PEAS 20-OZ TIN 19c
 FESTIVE MIX. HARD CANDY POUND 35c
 JELLY BEANS or XMAS JELLIES LB. 35c
 ROMAR HOMOGENIZED PEANUT BUTTER 10-OZ JAR 37c

CARROLL'S DANDEE TEA PKG. 37c, 73c
 HEINZ TOMATO KETCHUP 16 OZ. 24c
 AYLMEY IRISH STEW 16-OZ TIN 25c
 MOTHER PARKER'S TEA BAGS PKG. 20c, 39c
 QUICK QUAKER OATS 5-LB. PKG. 26c
 SOCIETY DOG FOOD 20-OZ TIN 14c

AYLMEY JUMBO STUFFED OLIVES 16-OZ JAR 79c
 TURKISH TABLE FIGS 1-LB. PKG. 15c
 BLUE RIBBON FUDGE MIX PACKAGE 29c
 MAPLE LEAF MINCEMEAT LB. 21c
 AYLMEY CUT MIXED PEEL 1-LB. PKG. 17c
 AYLMEY ASST'D GLACED FRUITS 1-LB. PKG. 21c
 AUSTRALIAN CRUSHED PINEAPPLE 20-OZ TIN 33c
 AUSTRALIAN SEEDLESS RAISINS LB. 15c
 CALIFORNIA SEEDED RAISINS PKG. 27c
 AUSTRALIAN CURRANTS LB. 15c
 SHELLED ALMONDS 1-LB 19c
 PIECES OF SHELLED WALNUTS 1-LB 25c

FANCY RED SOCKEYE
SALMON 1-LB. TIN 39c

Crisp, Iceberg LETTUCE, Size 6's 2 HEADS 27c
 10 LB. Bag No. 1 COOKING ONIONS 35c
 Size 300 LEMONS, Doz. 35c
 Florida 216 ORANGES, Doz. 27c

Business Directory

MEDICAL
 DR. W. G. C. KENNEY
 Physician and Surgeon
 (Successor to Dr. J. A. McNeill)
 Office in Symon Block, Mill St., Acton
 Office Phone 78—Waldman Church St., Phone 126

DR. D. A. GARRETT
 Physician and Surgeon
 Frederick Street, Acton
 Formerly Dr. Nelson's office
 Office Phone 238 Residence 248

DENTAL
 DR. A. J. BUCHANAN
 Dental Surgeon
 Office—Lindsay Block, 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
 Bell Telephone Building
 Acton
 Phone 303
 Hours 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

LEGAL
 C. F. LEATHERLAND, B.A.
 ACTON
 Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public
 Office 22 Phone Residence 181

LEVER & HOSKIN
 Chartered Accountants
 Successors to
 JENKINS & HARDY

VETERINARY
 1305 Metropolitan Bldg.
 44 Victoria St., Toronto
 EIG. 9331

B. D. YOUNG, V.S., B.V.Sc.
 Veterinary Surgeon
 Office: Brookville, Ontario
 Phone—Milton 14684

F. G. OAKES, V.S., B.V.Sc.
 Veterinary Surgeon
 Office and Residence—Knox Ave.
 Acton — Phone 130

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Eastbound
 6:41 a.m., 8:41 a.m., 8:56 a.m.,
 11:46 a.m., 2:06 p.m., 4:41 p.m.,
 6:31 p.m.; 8:26 p.m.; 10:56 p.m.

Westbound
 To Stratford—10:41 a.m.; 12:44 p.m.;
 2:59 p.m.; 5:29 p.m.; 7:24 p.m.;
 9:14 p.m.; 11:34 p.m.
 To London—10:44 a.m.; 2:19 p.m.;
 5:29 p.m.; 7:24 p.m.; 9:14 p.m.

a. Except Sundays and Holidays
 b. Sunday and Holidays
 c. Saturday, Sunday and Holidays
 d. To Kitchener daily, to Stratford
 Sunday and Holidays
 e. To Kitchener only.

RAILWAYS
CANADIAN NATIONAL
 (Standard Time)

Eastbound
 Daily 6:41 a.m.; Daily except
 Sunday 9:52 a.m.; 7:10 p.m.; Sun-
 day only 8:19 p.m.; Daily except
 Sunday, Flyer at Georgetown, 6:37
 p.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown,
 10:11 p.m.

Westbound
 Daily except Monday, 1:17 a.m.;
 Monday only, 12:09 a.m.; daily ex-
 cept Sunday, 8:49 a.m., 6:50 p.m.,
 7:44 p.m.; Saturday only, 2:36 p.m.;
 Sunday only, 9:43 a.m., flagstop;
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