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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

Toronto and Ontario

Failing to get a favorable decision on the 2-year term for Toronto, Municipal Officials from its own ratepayers, along comes the suggestion from the big city officials that the Province make a ruling that municipal nominations elections be held on uniform dates. It seems that some officials believe that the New Year election dates do not bring out the voters in the city in spite of the fact that a few years back the voters endorsed the New Year election date for Toronto.

We in other parts of the province do not care when Toronto elections are held but we are concerned when our municipal nominations and elections are held and we do think we are capable of deciding that time in a democratic way by the majority vote. Most municipalities feel there is even now too much dictation from the Ontario Government in municipal affairs to the detriment of most municipalities.

When Toronto starts to dictate through the province for the other municipalities, the move is resented. There is little or no desire on the part of the rest of Ontario for a Toronto-Ontario plan of uniformity. As a matter of fact it would be safe to say there is no desire for uniformity with any of Toronto's plans. It is equally safe to say that there is no desire to have Toronto conform to our plans as adopted elsewhere in Ontario in election dates or otherwise.

The Press and The Public

Under this heading, the Barrie (Ont.) Examiner insists it "does not want any special privileges at meetings of the town council. We want only the same rights that should be accorded every taxpayer, the same rights that are taken for granted in other municipalities."

The question of the rights of the public in attending meetings of the local council has been raised by the Examiner in connection with a local ruling which makes it lawful for the mayor "to order the doors of the council chamber to be closed and when the doors shall be directed to be closed, all persons, except the members and clerk, shall retire."

Says the Examiner: "When this procedure is carried out at every meeting, it seems to be getting a long way from democratic practice. It would appear to be contrary to the Ontario Municipal Act which states: 'The ordinary meeting of every council shall be open and no person shall be excluded therefrom except for improper conduct.'"

"Many of the ratepayers are not happy about being excluded from council meetings. Some of the councillors believe they have more freedom of discussion and can handle the town business better when the ratepayers are not present. The reporter, being given permission to remain throughout the entire council meeting is in the peculiar position of being granted a privilege that is not accorded any other ratepayer."

Fortunately the local action taken in Barrie is not usual throughout Ontario but such situations do sometimes develop. When the public business cannot be conducted with full knowledge of the ratepayers or is behind closed doors it's time for the public to protect their business. The press is the best means of keeping the public informed about their own business.

Expansion and Contraction

Over in Orangeville where the High School was burned about a year ago, the Banner reports that 250 High School students are now continuing their studies in the former First Avenue Church which has been made into temporary quarters until the new High School is erected. The congregations of two churches have united and this one building is available for emergency school needs.

This situation brings to attention the fact that in most every municipality school conditions are crowded and there is consideration being given to new buildings both in public and secondary schools. All of this would seem to indicate that there are more children and hence a larger population.

This is not however borne out in connection with Church buildings where often one building will do the work of two former buildings. Overcrowding of any of the church buildings in municipalities is not the usual thing or the demand for larger buildings.

We don't pretend to know the answers to the thought-provoking situation. We don't profess to be doing anything to change the situation. The item in the Orangeville Banner simply focused our attention on the school-church expansion and contraction situation of the present day.

The Immediate Future

An accurate diagnosis of the present is often a lighted way into the future. As Canadian citizens, how well do we know where we stand at the beginning of 1948?

A generation ago a group of men gripped by a materialistic idea, decided to capture the world with it. What went on before our eyes in 1948 was largely the result of that decision. "Like professionals playing against amateurs" is the way one correspondent described the destructive work of the Communists in Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia, like many another country, woke up too late. Its people tried to appease the Communists; tried to mix democracy with a ruthless materialistic ideology. Too late the Czechs found that it was a fight to the finish—the finish of freedom and the ideals they cherished.

The leaders of that idea have the same objective for Canada. As in other lands, the battle in Canada will be marked by efficiency, subtlety and deception. It will be a war to determine the kind of ideas we are to live by; whether we exchange things like honesty and justice for falsehood and tyranny; whether we turn away from everything Christianity has given us, or stand up and make it the big idea behind democracy—make Christianity the ideology of democracy.

Strangely, although we in Canada are in the midst of a struggle that has engulfed half the world, we have no strategy for this battle. The battle of ideologies is won first in the individual. Every Canadian must decide whether he or she is for or against Christian democracy. Every component of our Canadian society must decide where its stand is to be made.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The January thaw came early this year and replenished water supplies.

In view of the fact that Nassagaweya Township is this year marking its Centennial it would be a fine gesture if the representative of that Township was this year honored with the Wardenship of the County.

From Toronto's mayor comes the suggestion for continuing daylight saving for two months additional next fall to help the Hydro situation. Does that mean a long range prediction of abnormally light rainfall this summer?

Warnings that Canada faces loss of overseas markets because of import and exchange restrictions were brought home forcibly this week. At midweek Ford Motor Co. of Canada announced layoff of 800-850 employees due to a curtailment of export in most of its overseas markets.

It was not a happy holiday season for the employees of the Saskatchewan Government-owned tannery and shoe factory. The C.C.F. Party used to have as its slogan "humanity first." Now it dismisses a whole staff with "regrets for the personal problems involved" and claims that it is doing "what is possible to mitigate the circumstances."

Our educational authorities are too much inclined to lose sight of realities, thinks the Yorkton (Sask.) Enterprise. "Their conception of what a student should learn will fit him for a place in the world of their imagination, rather than the practical one in which he will have to make a living. The result is that an undue proportion of the task of educating graduates of our public and high schools falls upon those whose duty it is to train them after they secure employment in an office or store or start to learn a trade."

Recollections of Acton
BACK IN 1899

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 12, 1898

Messrs. W. Stark and N. F. Moore were appointed auditors for the current year at the initial meeting of the council on Monday.

A delegation from the Christian Endeavour Society of Knox church headed by President A. T. Mann, will attend the third annual Convention of the Young People's Society of the Presbytery of Guelph Monday.

Mrs. John Kenney, Br. died at her home on Elgin Street on January 8th. Mr. and Mrs. Kenney were among our oldest residents and they enjoyed general esteem. They were married at the Grange, County Antrim, Ireland, on December 10th, 1847, and emigrated to Canada the following year. Nearly 40 years ago they came to Acton. Surviving children are Mrs. Edward Couch and Mrs. Samuel Haysom, Brampton. Mrs. Alex. Sprawl, Speyside; and Messrs. William and John Kenney, Acton.

Mr. D. Henderson, M. P., had a painful and somewhat serious fall upon the sidewalk opposite his residence on Bower Avenue last Friday. His feet both shot from under him and he fell heavily, dislocating and badly spraining his ankle.

C. F. Goodwin and Co., Acton, are advertising a job lot of overcoats from \$2 up and caps from 5c up. Nell, the Shoe Man, Guelph, is clearing 200 pairs of rubbers at 25c a pair.

The board of health for the current year is composed as follows: Reeve Inarson, Clerk, T. T. Moore, Messrs. W. K. Kenney, Robt. Wallace and J. H. Matthews.

DIED
 REICHE: At Durham, on Monday 9th January, the widow of the late George Reiche and mother of Mr. George Reiche, Acton, aged 80 years.

BACK IN 1929

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday January 10, 1928

The new Councils and municipal bodies are now getting under way with the year's work.

The election results for Nassagaweya Council were Reeve Mr. Donald Campbell, Councillors Messrs. W. T. Near, W. W. Dredge, L. Crawford and Norman Lillycrop.

Miss Mary Coleman of Burlington, an undergraduate of Victoria College, has this year been awarded the scholarship offered annually by the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire.

MARRIED
 MARSHALL - DENNIS: At the home of the bride's parents, Rockwood, on Saturday, December 29, 1927, by Rev. A. Donaldson, Arnold Blair Marshall, of Moffat, to Edith Isabelle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Dennis, Rockwood.

DIED
 SCOTT: At the home, Lot 21, 45th Line, Esquesing Township, on Tuesday, January 8, 1928, Margaret Reid, widow of the late J. Scott in her 94th year.

NORRISH: At the General Hospital, Guelph, on Wednesday, January 9, 1928, Harriet Clifford Norrish, of Campbellville in his 34th year.

"Because of the proximity of Alaska, many of our neighbours over the border erroneously think that Washington, not Ottawa, governs the Klondyke."

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Business Directory

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 Physician and Surgeon
 (Successor to Dr. J. A. McNiven)
 Office in Symon Block, Mill St., Acton
 Office Phone 78; Residence Chapel 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—Leithman 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 21 Bellam, Residence 183

LEVER & HOSKIN
 Chartered Accountants
 Successors to
 JENKINS & HARDY

VETERINARY
 1305 Metropolitan Bldg.
 44 Victoria St., Toronto
 Ely 9131

B. D. YOUNG, V.S., B.V.Sc.
 Veterinary Surgeon
 Office: Brookville, Ontario
 Phone Milton 14674

F. G. OAKES, V.S., B.V.Sc.
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 Westbound
 To Stratford—10:44 a.m.; 12:44 p.m.; 2:59 p.m.; 5:29 p.m.; 7:24 p.m.; 9:11 p.m.; 11:34 p.m.
 To London—10:44 a.m.; 2:59 p.m.; 5:29 p.m.; 7:24 p.m.; 9:11 p.m.
 Except Sundays and Holidays to Sunday and Holidays to Saturday, Sunday and Holidays to Kitchener only, to Stratford Sunday and Holidays 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.; Sunday only, 8:19 p.m.; Daily except Sunday, Flyer at Georgetown, 6:57 p.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown, 10:11 p.m.
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