

EDITORIAL

Who is Most Capable?

Dominion and Provincial governments are hinting on various sources of raising funds to meet the ever increasing demands on public spending. The difficulty comes in the fact that once a new tax is established to meet an emergency it invariably remains in force. For example take the sales and gasoline taxes which were wartime innovations to meet an emergency, but have remained and been increased as a means to bolster the spending by governments. One may always argue whether government spending is carefully administered.

The fact remains that all these taxes and levies contribute to the higher cost of living and lower the amount earned and controlled by the individual. It is said that in terms of 1938 prices our present dollar is worth 58c. It would be interesting to note just how much of the 42c shrinkage has been caused by government levies.

Speaking of old age pensions, Prime Minister St. Laurent is quoted as saying, "The people seem to want it." The same reply is applicable to most public demands and it might be well if the people would analyze their wants in the light of their ability to pay. These are days of making up government budgets. Do you want levies higher? Do you think governments are better able to administer your wages and spending than you are?

National Health Week

As nations go, Canada can be considered to be a comparatively healthy nation, with excellent health departments supported by all level of government—federal, provincial, and municipal—doing good jobs. These departments spend millions to prevent disease and to care for those suffering from various illnesses.

Then there are the voluntary associations, mostly educational in their scope, which spend time, effort and money to keep the people informed.

However, much of this money and effort is wasted because of ignorance and apathy on the part of the general public—with many persons either too lazy or too careless to do anything about maintaining or improving their own or their community's health conditions.

Much illness is preventable—illness which causes human and economic waste—but such ailments continue to take toll. Diphtheria and whooping cough are preventable, yet there are still deaths from both—early diagnosis would save much suffering and many lives in the cases of tuberculosis and cancer, yet there are sufferers who fail to take the necessary early precautions.

Proper eating—a balanced diet—is one way to good health.

That is why an event like National Health Week, the seventh observance of which is scheduled for February 4th to 10th, is important. This "Week" is purely a health education project sponsored by the nation's leading voluntary health education association—Health League of Canada—in co-operation with health and education authorities throughout the nation. It is designed to emphasize the facts about health and disease in an effort to create a lasting understanding in the public mind.

It is true that every week should be a Health Week, but it is obviously impossible to wage such an all-out publicity effort in favor of health every week, so such a campaign has to be confined to one week a year.

Drinking Driver Problem

Greater light on the problem of the drinking driver has been shed in a report issued by H. D. Archibald, Director of Research of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario and Dr. Ward Smith of the University of Toronto's Department of Pharmacology.

Based on information obtained at the First International Conference on Alcohol and Traffic held at Stockholm this summer and research work carried on by Mr. Archibald and Dr. Smith, the report states that the problem of the drinking driver is "greater" than official statistics indicate.

The opinion that the drinking driver problem is greater than indicated by official figures is borne out by a survey conducted in Toronto by Dr. Smith in co-operation with the Police Department and financed by federal authorities.

Although some official statistics say only one per cent. of Ontario accidents involve intoxicated drivers, the data supplied in the Toronto survey shows that twenty-three per cent. of the group tested (over 900) involved in traffic accidents had more than a trace of alcohol in their blood.

It was also established that the proportion of drivers who were in a large degree responsible for their accidents was much greater in the group of drinking drivers.

Present and Future

So often these days we see the expression, "long term planning" or "long view planning" and it seems to have replaced that other school which talked in terms of five and ten year plans. It is well to look ahead and plan for the future. It has always been the thought of man but in these days of so many interferences in plans we wonder if our future planning is not being overdone.

If we of this present generation make all the plans for those who follow, will we with our present knowledge make workable plans for a long term? Have we the right to endeavor to make long term plans?

There is the thought, too, that if all our efforts are concentrated on the future we may lose much of the good and happiness of the present. There are plenty of problems that require a solution today. That is the duty of the present generation. If the problems of our day are solved perhaps the future will have a better plan. We of today are certainly making light of many of the plans that were made for us to follow and seeking ways to avoid many of the acts of our forefathers set out for our guidance. Will our long term plans of today be as stable?

Let's not neglect our works of the present in our "long term view."

Another Twenty Years

Just sit back and relax for a little while... the world is getting somewhere after all. Life expectancy, the federal health department has announced, is up 20 years.

There doesn't seem to be nearly enough time these days to do a fraction of all that appears to be on life's agenda. As well as the routine work there's the things we'd like to do and learn, the places we'd like to go, and so on. The wistful line of thinking that all we need is more time is cheered considerably by the thought that almost all of us can count on having 20 more years to do those things in than we would have had if we were born 50 years ago!

Public health authorities note that as well as the increase in life expectancy the general death rate has been reduced about a third in Canada during the last half century. Definite progress in medical science is coupled with a spreading personal concern for health. Just last week it was announced that the Halton County Health Unit is again expanding its services to include a child health centre at Bronte. Continual small advances like this one boost health standards slowly but surely.

Education has reduced the death rate from cancer and tuberculosis. The infant mortality rate has been cut 50 per cent. in the twentieth century, and the maternal mortality rate 60 per cent.

The statistics are certainly encouraging... until our thoughts revert back to the first thing that struck us when we read of the increased life expectancy. We thought we should have 20 more years to get caught up on ourselves.

There must be something wrong with either the government statistics or our figuring, because it's certainly not true, is it?

Editorial Notes

A smile has more than its face value.

At one time laziness was something for comment, but now even automobiles are shiftless. Rotarian.

Can't be much complaint on the problem of snow shovelling this year and so far the cost of clearing the roads has been light.

Linotype metal that sold in 1938 around 10c a pound touched a new high last week of 31c per lb.; half the price of butter and a 100 lbs. can go in a pretty small box.

Aluminum bottles are now on the market for packaging. They would be welcomed by motorists since so many think it all right to throw bottles along the roadways and ruin tires.

"Please" and "thank you" are not outmoded expressions as one might suspect, so seldom are they heard these days. They should be cultivated. Their use takes little time or energy but adds much to the graciousness of daily living.

In some service clubs fines are imposed on members who are absent or late. Wonder what revenue could be collected if such a plan were introduced for members of parliament in both Dominion and Provincial fields. Might help in the budgets.



"WELL AT LEAST YOU WON'T BE TROUBLED WITH THE SEWER BACKING UP INTO THE BASEMENT."

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1901

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 31, 1901

The Merchants' Bank was at home to the public on Monday morning for the first time in the splendid new premises specially erected in the Warren block, corner Mill and Willow Sts. That the citizens and public generally were surprised at the elegance and substantial character of the bank's new premises and fittings is putting it mildly indeed. The interior arrangements are perfect in point of convenience, appearance and comfort to both the public and the bank officials and the exterior is quite imposing. Entering from Mill St. through double doors and passing through a neat vestibule you reach the roomy public quarters of the bank.

The fittings would do credit to a city bank. In fact, the Canadian Office and School Furniture Co. of Preston, who executed them, set them up three times for other new banks to copy from.

A gripper rules in many households here. There was a rumour in town last week that Mr. James White, drover, Erin had died from the effects of a serious accident which befell him while boarding a train at Erin with a car of cattle. Messrs. J. H. Matthews and F. McMillan went to Erin on Sunday to attend the funeral but they learned that Mr. White was living and, though his injuries are serious, he is well on the way to recovery.

Reeve Williams has proclaimed Saturday a public holiday out of respect to the memory of our late beloved Queen Victoria. The 14th of May is to be perpetuated as a permanent holiday.

BACK IN 1931

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, Jan. 29, 1931

A little more snow every day makes the drifts that much deeper. The wise motorist carries a snow-shovel on his trips out of town these days.

January 1931 was the warmest in ten years, according to the Dominion observatory.

The free show at the Gregory Theatre on Tuesday for the school children had a line-up for a block to gain admittance.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Halton County Children's Aid Society was held at the Gordon Home, Milton last week. The inspector's report showed that very energetic and efficient work was being accomplished in the county.

The first reunion banquet for all ex-service men in Halton county was held on Thursday last at the Brant Inn. Over 400 were present. Col. G. O. Brown, Sheriff of Halton County acted as toastmaster.

Acton and Burlington are close for first place in the local hockey group. A win to-morrow at Brampton is needed to give Acton the leadership.

Reeve A. Mason was the unanimous choice as Warden for Halton County Council for 1931. He took the oath of office before Judge Moore at Acton.

At the meeting of Halton Presbytery of the United Church at Oakville, Norman E. Caswell, Oakville, John Elvin Gamble, Acton and John Andrew McDermid of Georgetown were received as candidates for the ministry.

BORN
THOMPSON—At Milton, on Friday January 16, 1931, to Mr and Mrs. George Franklin Thompson a daughter.

NORTH EAST WEST SOUTH

NEWS FROM ALL DIRECTIONS

Haggis by T.C.A.
A consignment of haggis for 75 lucky (?) people was flown by T.C.A. from Britain for the Burns Club dinner in London, Ont. The genuine haggis was made from a recipe handed down for generations by the housekeeper at Locklea arm. Tarbolton. With the Scotch treat came a message of greeting to the mayor of London and the members of the club from the provost of Prestwick.

Georgetown Escapes.
Fire escapes have just been installed at the Georgetown Public School, last week's Herald reports. The Fire Department didn't recommend them until recently because of the good time the youngsters made in practice drills and because there were two stairways. Despite speedy drills and two stairs, mothers are glad to know, the regulation escapes are there, just the same.

Hydro's Reign
Robert Saunders, the chairman of the Ontario Hydro, attended a banquet in Erin on January 17th to mark the official inauguration of the Erin Hydro-Electric Commission. The town hall was specially decorated for the occasion. Mr. Saunders welcomed Erin as the three hundred and tenth municipality to join the Hydro Commission "family". He gave a vivid description of how main office employees courted ulcers worrying about no rain, no rain, no rain, during his talk.

"Progress" Edition
The Guelph Daily Mercury had a very special 64 page "Progress" edition last Saturday. Full of historical articles and interesting pictures, it traced the development of the city and many of its well established firms. Named among those who brought credit to the city are Lieut. Col. John McCrae, physician, poet and soldier, and the author of "In Flanders Fields". Another famous son is Edward Johnson, recently retired general manager of the New York Metropolitan Opera Co. The King of the Chicago Wheat Pit, Arthur W. Cutten, is another. Thomas B. Costain, author of "The Money Man" and "Son of a Hundred Kings" is a former editor of the Guelph Mercury.

AT THE Churches

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1951
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship
Thought for the Week
In quietness and confidence shall be your strength. Isaiah 30:15.

St. Alban's Church
(Anglican)
Rector—Rev. W. G. Lupton, B.A.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1951
Sunday before Lent
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer and Beginner's Class
7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer
Both services will be conducted by Capt. R. A. Taylor, newly appointed field secretary of the Church Army in Canada.
A Welcome Awaits You

Presbyterian Church in Canada
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG
M.A., Minister

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1951
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship
12:15 p.m.—Sunday School and Bible Class
7:15 p.m.—Young People's Service. The Inter-Church Young People's Fellowship will be responsible for the evening services. Miss Terry Hansen will be guest speaker.
"Seek ye the Lord, while He may be found."

Baptist Church
ACTON
Mr. Stanley Woodcock,
Student Pastor

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1951
10:30 a.m.—Sunday School and Bible class
11:30 a.m.—Morning Service
12:30 p.m.—Communion
7:15 p.m.—Acton Inter-Church Young People's service in Knox Presbyterian Church.
Thursday—8 p.m.—Prayer meeting.
Friday—4 p.m. Mission Band; 8 p.m. B.Y.P.U.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE
GRAY COACH LINES
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Eastbound
6:30 a.m.; 8:50 a.m.; 11:23 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 5:03 p.m.; 6:33 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.; 10:50 p.m.
Westbound
10:17 a.m.; 12:52 p.m.; 2:57 p.m.; 5:27 p.m.; 7:27 p.m.; 9:12 p.m.; 11:32 p.m.; 1:12 a.m. (Sun. to Kitchener only)
a—Daily except Sunday and holidays.
b—Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
Eastbound
Daily 6:44 a.m. Daily except Sundays 9:54 a.m.; 7:10 p.m. Sunday only 4:16 p.m. Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 9:02 a.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10:11 p.m.
Westbound
Daily, except Sunday and Monday 1:56 a.m.; Sunday and Monday only 12:30 a.m.; daily except Sunday 4:43 a.m.; 6:50 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 6:10 p.m. (flagstop); Saturday only 2:30 p.m.; Sunday only 9:43 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday only Flyer at Guelph 7:05 p.m.

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