

EDITORIAL

Holding the Line

These are days of ever rising costs in the publishing field and more and more newspapers are finding the only answer by distributing the costs to advertisers and subscribers. A study of these increases reveals that the increases are much less than the customer is paying in other fields from haircuts down.

Publishers can do a lot. For instance in our own case we have been able to meet some of the added costs by buying materials in great quantities. But this required more storage space and the advantage of having control for buying for two newspapers. The expenditure on modern machinery has also reduced production costs. Without these advantages larger increases would have been required to meet costs.

There are ways, too, in which subscribers and customers can assist in keeping prices down. Prompt renewals of subscriptions means savings in billings. It costs in postage alone four cents on every billing plus stationery and bookkeeping. This can be saved by watching your label and paying ahead of expiry date.

Advertisers can help by sending remittances with advertisements or calling in and paying before the accounts have to be mailed. "A penny saved is a penny earned" and if we are to maintain present rates and subscription prices the job is one that must be done co-operatively.

We might add also that in making remittances by mail, do not send cheques for small amounts. A little inquiry will reveal more economical methods of remitting. It is not our desire to make any increases at the present time but to hold the line we need the co-operation of all to meet the rise in costs beyond our control.

Making Up the Tax Rate

Another evidence of things to come in the way of higher local taxes in the county road budget passed last week for Halton of \$210,000 which, we understand is \$31,000 greater than last year. Maintenance of county roads is estimated at \$134,000; construction \$45,500; machinery repairs \$9,000 and \$21,000 miscellaneous.

Actually road expenditures in Halton last year were \$178,446.99. We believe there are 130 miles of roads in the county on which the \$210,000 estimated expenditure is to be made. This is roughly a cost of \$1,600 per mile for county roads. Total mileage of all roads and streets in the county is 738 miles which leaves over 600 miles looked after by the province in highways and the towns and townships.

We are not being critical but rather present the figures in an effort to show a portion of the costs that make up your local tax rates. The whole municipal tax field could be similarly analyzed and it would likely bring out the fact that municipal councils who provide all the amounts for the various bodies have little voice in the setting of the tax rate but the rather difficult job of making the announcement of the rate and hearing the complaints.

"They"

Hardly a conversation lasting more than a few minutes in our town is complete without some reference to "they". "They" should do this; that or the other thing to improve the community.

This is a situation that is by no means confined to our town. It is common throughout the province and the nation.

Just who "they" are, we are not sure. We suspect, however, that governments municipal, provincial or federal are involved somehow.

By taking the attitude that "they" should be responsible for everything, we shuffle off any feeling that we, personally, are responsible, in any way to see to it that things are accomplished.

In our town we hear such questions as: Why don't they bring more industries to town? Why don't they keep the streets clean? Why don't they do something about the cost of living, the housing situation, the roads, the appearance of the town? Why don't they build more sidewalks, provide better street lighting, develop sports among the young people, organize a drama society? The list could go on ad nauseam.

This "they" business, we believe, is symptomatic of the "leave it to George" attitude that is prevalent all over the country.

Isn't it about time we realized that instead of "they" we should say, "we" and then go ahead and get things done?

Nothing is impossible if "we" really want it and go after it. How? By thinking and planning and working together, by putting our best effort into any project we want carried out.

What our town and indeed all Canada needs is more "we"—a lot more—and less "they".

Contributed:

They're Loose Again

Every community has its occasional visitors who have a slick racket. According to a recent issue of the Brampton Conservator several residents of that Peel county town had been victimized by so-called salesmen. The Conservator states that two men, said to have been driving a car bearing a British Columbia license, extracted a sum estimated at \$40 from a number of Bramptonians before they "blew town".

There is no use saying it can't happen here or we wouldn't be the victims of these rackets. Usually the fly-by-night salesman is well armed with proof of his reliability and will issue receipts. He quite often has the names of citizens you know and may produce orders supposed to be signed by them.

There is only one way to meet him. Take time to investigate, and if in doubt check with the police. One of the things always required by the high pressure salesman is immediate acceptance and your money. Take time to investigate before you give either to a stranger.

Coddling Trade Unions

Delegates at the annual convention of the Ontario Provincial Federation of Labor in Toronto clashed over a motion seeking government legislation to limit working hours of Hamilton street car and bus drivers to five days a week. While younger delegates supported the motion, older unionists argued that it sought too much "government coddling". This view was stressed by Robert Ford, president of the Ottawa Typographical Union, who said he was surprised that any labor group would ask the government to do a job the union itself should be doing, and he added: "It just shows a lack of intestinal fortitude in the people who ask the government to do their work. If this sort of thing goes on, it will not be long before trade unionism is wiped out altogether."

Mr. Ford has probably been studying a recent history of trade unions in Russia and Germany, which describes how, by means of legislative "coddling", the unions in those countries were gradually absorbed by the government, and the labor leaders became bureaucratic slave-drivers of the workers. The same process, in its early stages, is operating under the British Labor Government which has already absorbed many labor union leaders. It is a natural and quite logical process, and it is being speeded up by the nationalization of industries, which must inevitably lead to the nationalization of labor unions. Socialism plays with labor unions as a cat plays with a mouse before eating it.

The Canadian Family

Changes in the number and average size of Canadian families will be revealed by the Ninth Decennial Census of Canada, to be taken in June this year. During the ten years from 1931 to 1941 the average number of children per family decreased. Since 1941 the number of families has risen far more than during the 1930's, but it is probable that the average number of children per family has decreased further in spite of a marked increase in the birth rate. Exactly how much each has changed will be shown by the 1951 Census.

The 1931 Census enumerated 2,149,000 families, while at the 1941 Census 2,525,000 were recorded, an increase of 17.5 per cent. Judging by estimates for years since 1941, the 1951 Census will show a still larger proportionate, as well as numerical, increase over 1941. The estimated number of families in June, 1949, the latest date for which such an estimate is available, was 3,187,000, an increase of over 26 per cent. since 1941.

Editorial Notes

The Lenten season started on Wednesday and Easter is just six weeks away.

The old travel urge was "Go West, Young Man", but the new Canadian winter travel urge is "Go South Old Man".

New restrictions will likely take part of the fancy chrome trim off cars in the near future. What's left will still be susceptible to road chemicals used in winter.

One of our editorial comments of a couple of weeks ago was selected by The Financial Post for its position as "Editorial of the Week". We appreciate the honor.

A new chemical has been put on the market to harden concrete—causing a flintlike hardening of the surface. A drop on the slippery winter walks impresses us there is no need for its use here.



"YOU SAY HE SWALLOWED BUBBLE GUM?"

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1901

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, Feb. 1, 1901

The fire alarm rang on Tuesday at noon for the first time since Sunday, 15th July, 1900 when the Beardmore farm house was on fire. On this occasion it was only a burning chimney on Lee's tailor shop and the brigade was not called out. The first examination at the public school for the new century took place last Friday and the following pupils won places in the first roll of honour of the twentieth century.

First department Herbert, Fyfe, Ralston Brown, Lottie Moore, Ida Laird, Ida Day, Myrtle Matthews, Roy Arnold, Howland Brown, Oscar Brown, Phillip Holmes, Emma Pearson, Florence Chapman, Una Kenney.

Second department Dan Ritchie, Vida Folster, Frank Havill, Charlie Matthews, Myrtle Soper, Mamie Agnew.

Third department Percy Griffith, Vincent Goodeve, Annie Keenan, Emma Tovel, Jimmie McQueen, Mabel Arthurs.

Fourth Department, Fred Graham, Beatty Arnold, Leonard Worden, Eva Cook, Keith Godden, Ella Burgess, Della Lawson, A. M. McPherson.

Fifth department, Alice Prout, Warren Brown, Sydney Dunn, Ray Cook, Harry Bell, Arthur Kenney, Jack Nelson, Ethel Barr, Charlie Bell, Ruth Nelson, Gordon Johnson, Josie Kennedy, Andy O'Brien. Acton's town clerk is paid \$150 for his services.

BACK IN 1931

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thurs., Feb. 5, 1931

The sleighing parties are very popular these days among the young and older ones too.

A one month's short course in Agriculture and Home Economics was conducted during the month of January at Kilbride. The course concluded with a luncheon put on by the class members and the presenting of prizes.

Messrs. R. J. Kerr, D. D. Waldie and W. J. Akins attended the annual convention of the Fair's Association in Toronto this week.

Dublin Old Boys held a very enjoyable and successful social evening and dance in the Town Hall, Acton on Friday night. The event proved a most pleasant social gathering for the friends and families from the Dublin Section. Quite a number attended from a distance.

Acton Hockey team took top place in group and has a two goal lead in playoffs. Defeats were handed out to Brampton and Burlington on their own ice.

Candlemas day was a beautiful winter day and if the bear didn't see his shadow it was his own fault.

Magistrate Melveen convicted Blackburn and Merritt of Georgetown for assault upon Acton players at a hockey match between Acton and Georgetown at a league game at Georgetown.

Warden and Mrs. A. Mason left this week for a holiday trip to St. Petersburg, Florida.

NORTH EAST WEST SOUTH

NEWS FROM ALL DIRECTIONS

Van Meegeren Pupil

The Hamilton Spectator carried an interesting story last week of a young Dutch painter, Ebert Oudendag, who recently opened a studio there and soon plans to give an exhibition of his paintings. Mr. Oudendag was the favourite pupil of Han van Meegeren, who caused quite a front-page sensation near the end of the war when it was disclosed that many paintings thought to be originals by the famous Dutch artist Vermeer, were actually his skillful copies. Oudendag's teacher sold these copies as originals, fooling even the experienced art critics.

Mr. Oudendag always loved to draw. At 19 he ran away to sea but determined that art would be his career. His talents will now benefit the Canadian art scene.

Anniversary Edition

Last week the Hamilton Spectator reprinted the front page of its edition of January 28th, 1926, as a part of the special anniversary edition. Front page news is a big fire in Hamilton and the lack of success reported by those who are trying to receive overseas points on their radio sets. One man did manage to get Scotland, however. The Prince of Wales is pictured with the story of how he was thrown from a horse, suffering a broken collar bone.

Bull City Hall

"Believed to be Hamilton's oldest resident, Thomas Davis will be 100 years old on February 14th. A native of Wales, Mr. Davis began learning his trade of stonemasonry early. He worked on Hamilton city hall, and when the job of building the Dundas city hall was taken, he walked to and from Hamilton every day. The oldest member of any trade union in the district, Mr. Davis has a gold brick endorsing his life membership in the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union. He figured he is good for another ten years yet."

Price Boost

The Georgetown Herald announces that its subscription rate is up to \$3.00 per year while individual copies of the paper are now eight cents. The Erin Advocate last week also instituted a new policy of subscriptions strictly payable in advance. The ever-rising cost of materials forced the publishers to make the new ruling.

Lucky Clover

There may be something in those old superstitions after all — this story comes from Florida. "Evidently Mrs. Percy Meró of Sanford spotted a four leaf clover in the grass of her garden. Just for luck, she picked it up and put it in her wallet. There, she found a \$10 bill that she had put in the wallet years before and forgotten all about!"

AT THE Churches

United Church of Canada
Acton, Ontario
A FRIENDLY CHURCH
Parsonage—29 Bower Avenue
Phone 80.
Rev. E. A. Curry, B.A., B.D., Minister
Miss O. M. Lawson, A.T.C.M., Organist and Choir Leader

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 1951
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Subject, "Barriers to God" (First sermon in series).
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship. A film and Sermonette. (Gospel hymns on the screen. Come and sing!)

Thought for the Week
I would give nothing for the Christianity of a man whose very dog and cat were not the better for his religion.
Rowland Hill

St. Alban's Church
(Anglican)
Rector—Rev. W. G. Lutton, B.A.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 1951
9:00 a.m.—Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Beginner's Class
7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer.
Lenten service every Wednesday at 8 p.m.
A Welcome Awaits You

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 1951
10:00 a.m.—Divine Worship.
12:15 p.m.—Sunday School and Bible Class.
7:00 p.m.—Divine Worship.
"Come let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."
Visitors will be made welcome.

Baptist Church
ACTON
Mr. Stanley Woodcock, Student Pastor

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 1951
10:30 a.m.—Sunday School and Bible class.
11:30 a.m.—Morning Service.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service conducted by Young People.
Friday, 8 p.m.—B.Y.P.U.
Wednesday, February 14—Guelph Ass'n. B.Y.P.U. skating party at Guelph.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

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(Successor to Dr. J. A. McNiven)
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Entrance River Street
Acton, Ontario
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X-RAY
TELEPHONE 148

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Office and Residence—Knox Ave.
Acton — Phone 130

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE
GRAY COACH LINES
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Eastbound
8:30 a.m.; 8:58 a.m.; 11:23 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 5:03 p.m.; 6:33 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.; 10:58 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, 8:16 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, 12:38 a.m.; daily except Sunday, 4:48 a.m.; 6:50 p.m.; 7:44 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 6:10 p.m. (flagstop); Saturday only 2:36 p.m.; Sunday only 9:43 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday only Flyer at Guelph, 7:05 p.m.

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