

EDITORIAL

Hope or Hopeless

Judging by the report of a speech of Premier Frost in the legislature, the government does not plan to adopt the major proposal of the Hope Commission on Education—division of the school system into three levels with resulting curtailment of Separate School authority.

The Liberal House leader, Farquhar Oliver, says the government might as well have put the \$500,000 it spent on the Hope report in the waste basket. He said the present government has no intention of implementing it and "Neither have we."

So there you have the Hope report. It was the people's half million that went into it but all politicians for the sake of their own safety studiously avoid it. There is one thing hopeful in the whole thing and that is the fact that answers from the Department of Education can no longer be qualified with "that depends of course on the Hope Report". It will require invention of a new phrase to indicate evasion.

There is, however, one part of Premier Frost's speech that will meet with approval. He is reported as saying that in considering changes in the education system, the government must remember there is a limit to the tax-paying capacity of our citizens. It would appear that since the government has adopted a liberal policy of grants it has been brought home that there are budget limitations within which desires must be contained. Local municipal bodies have realized this for some time.

Ontario is growing and expanding rapidly. Its educational plans must keep pace with this growth. The Hope Commission Report cannot logically be commended or condemned. In the growth of the province it could serve as a valuable guide in formulating our educational policy. We do believe, however, that one of its recommendations could well be implemented and a Minister of Education be appointed whose duties would not be divided with the equally important ones of another cabinet position. Ontario does require one man as Minister of Education. Surely all parties can agree on that point and the whole of the half million should not be wasted.

Unusual and Commonplace

Judging by recent news reports the railways are taking a toll of lives that hardly makes it feel more secure over the aeroplane or the automobile as a means of travel. We have had the railways with us for well over a hundred years and yet in spite of all kinds of mechanical devices for safety, the human element is still a big factor in keeping down the death toll.

The big train wreck in the United States last week is described as the worst. It appears that speed was a contributing factor. In spite of crossing warnings and precautions we find the level crossing accidents taking a heavy toll with eight last week in a train-bus crash at Sudbury. The train was 35 minutes late and the weather was terrible. The fact remains, eight died and twenty-two were injured.

There is no safe means of travel if all factors are not carefully balanced by the humans who are in control and compensate for the mechanical deficiencies. And yet it is remarkable the number of persons who travel safely by all these means and it becomes commonplace and accepted. It is a hopeful sign surely that accidents are still news.

The Children Suffer

A little three-year-old girl was crushed to death at Elmbank, the other day under the wheels of a tractor. She had been riding with her father while he cleared the snow from the driveway. Her little five-year-old brother was waiting his turn for a ride.

The other day when it was well below zero we met a man on a tractor on the highway between Acton and Milton. He had a lad who looked under ten on his knee apparently steering the machine. Both were very cold on the open machine. They must have reached their destination safely since no accident was reported. They were lucky.

There are too many owners of tractors these days who are allowing children to operate and ride these machines. Tractors are heavy and powerful machines. There is no provision made for anyone but the operator to ride on them. They are motor vehicles.

Why is it that the same regulations do not apply to them that are on every other motor vehicle? You can't crowd the driver's seat of a motor car with extra passengers and you can't allow anyone under sixteen years of age to operate a motor vehicle. These are sane regulations and should need no enforcement but they are being violated every day by tractor owners. In the interests of the children of Ontario it is time the matter was taken up by the Highway department which apparently just winks at the danger.

St. Valentine's Day

Although some of our observances have rather shaky foundation in historical facts, St. Valentine was certainly real. In fact, there are two of them—both real men—as a basis for the observance, doubling the authenticity of St. Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, as a national special date.

The first St. Valentine was a bishop of the early Church who died as a martyr in 271 A.D. Emperor Claudius had issued a decree that no more marriages were to be performed since the married men, evidently quite satisfied with their status, refused to leave home and were not good soldiers when they were drafted.

The lovers' patron, St. Valentine, continued marrying couples, but was detected and executed. He was canonized as a martyr by the Church and the date set aside in his memory.

Then, during Roman feasts, Roman youths would draw tablets from an urn which would tell the name of the Roman maiden to whom they were to devote their special attentions for the next year. This ceremony gradually merged with the observation of St. Valentine's death.

The second popular St. Valentine is a German monk who loved to visit the sick and needy. When he was unable to see them, he would send kindly messages.

The exact observance has changed in both cases. The old monk's friendly notes have become either romantic, funny or else even crushingly insulting. And the modern age has also elaborated on the Roman custom. The more names the modern youths could draw the better and it wouldn't be surprising if a modern maiden would try to stack the polls by slipping in a dozen or so tablets with her own name. The original significance of St. Valentine's Day is lost in flippancy.

Ontario's Record

Ontario citizens established a new record of which neither they nor the Ontario Liquor Commission need be proud. Cash registers in beer, wine and liquor stores rang up sales of \$198,790,174.00 from April 1, 1949, to March 31, 1950. Ontario's liquor bill was 4.8 per cent. higher than the previous year and the money spent on alcohol averaged \$49 for every man, woman and child in the province.

Most of the revenue—\$102,800,000—was funnelled off in taxes into federal, provincial and municipal treasuries. The federal government's share was \$62,000,000.

For liquor alone, Ontario laid out \$88,816,669—an increase of 7.1 per cent. over the previous fiscal year. Sale of beer in breweries and brewers' warehouses—up by more than three per cent. accounted for most of the money spent on alcohol with a total of \$103,590,232. Only in the case of wine did Ontario thirst slacken. Wine sales slipped 2.8 per cent. to \$4,383,273.

The Ontario Liquor commission showed a total income of \$39,780,787, of which \$11,416,780 was derived from permit fees and taxes on wine and beer. For the 225 municipalities concerned, it meant a total take of \$788,984.

It's interesting to note also that nine more liquor stores were built and put into operation and apparently Ontario is out to break its own records in making its people more intoxicated. Eleven brewers' retail stores were also opened in that time.

The report shows 814,566 persons in Ontario or about one-sixth of the population held liquor permits and 95,590 permits were issued to non-residents. In addition, 2600 special permits were issued to druggists, doctors and hospitals.

During the year 4,116 persons had their permits cancelled, 20 by judges' order, 1,218 for drunk driving, 806 for breaches of the Liquor Control Act, and 2,077 for other reasons.

There is Ontario's record and there are still folks who will tell you (and expect you to believe it) that under temperance laws and restrictions the consumption of intoxicating beverages was worse than in this present day.

Editorial Notes

How the temperature has skidded around in a week. From 20 below to 40 above gives real variety in Canadian winters.

Your local municipal tax rate hasn't been announced yet, your new levies are still unsure by provincial and dominion governments and you don't have to file your 1950 returns for over two months. Enjoy it while you can.

Grand Valley council has asked for tenders for the collection of garbage—a progressive move that some larger towns seem hesitant in taking. Regular collections have proved a real municipal convenience here.



No! No! Baxter — you don't drain her like you do the tractor.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1901

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, Feb. 14, 1901

Acton has no vacant houses now. In several instances families have doubled in one house.

A parlor social under the auspices of St. Alban's Church will be held at the home of Mr. T. Statham to-night. Messrs. R. J. Gurney, Harry Jeans and others will render solos and an evening of pleasure is anticipated.

Twenty-five of the intimate friends of Dr. J. P. Coghlan tendered him an oyster supper at the Dominion Hotel last Thursday evening on the eve of his removal from Acton. Mine host Agnew provided a most appetizing menu which all enjoyed. A very pleasant evening was spent. After the cloth was removed ex-Councillor Francis was appointed toastmaster and the usual list of patriotic and other toasts were drunk in cold water.

Mrs. J. L. Warren and Mrs. A. T. Mann, Acton, were elected directors of the Halton Women's Institute at a meeting in the Town Hall, Milton.

The firm of Cooper and Akins who have been doing a profitable merchant tailoring business for nearly four years here have dissolved partnership by mutual consent. Mr. Cooper will continue the business and Mr. Akins removed this week to Midland where he has purchased and taken possession of a tailoring business.

The appointment of Dr. John M. MacDonald, Acton, as associate coroner for the County of Halton has been gazetted.

BACK IN 1931

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 12, 1931

Saturday's storm gave the worst tie-up of the year, but it was soon cleared away with the big snow plows.

Messrs. George Cowie, Thos. Watson, W. H. Graham and L. B. Shorey attended the curling bonspiel at Georgetown from Acton Curling Club.

Mr. Cowan Shortill, of Edmonton, Alberta, is visiting his friends in Acton and Ballinafad.

Canada's new Governor-General will be the Earl of Bessborough. He will receive a royal welcome when he assumes his duties in the Dominion.

The Acton Chautauqua is providing programmes of rare excellence. The attendance has been affected by other attractions which has made a busy week.

Mr. R. J. Kerr was again elected fair director for this district at the annual convention of the Ontario Fairs' Association held in Toronto.

Although Burlington won the final game of the group play-offs Acton maintained the group by a one goal lead. There was a capacity house for this game. Acton played with Caledonia Tuesday night and won by a score of 4-2.

DIED
LIEFSON—At the General Hospital, Guelph, on Wednesday, February 11, 1931 Annie Mae Crawford, beloved wife of Lloyd Liefson and daughter of Alex and the late Sarah Crawford in her 27th year.

NORTH EAST WEST SOUTH NEWS FROM ALL DIRECTIONS

Incognito
The editor of the Bowmanville Statesman tells a joke on himself. Walking down the street he met one of the nurses he recognized from when he was in the hospital last summer. He said, "Hello" but she just looked blank. Finally her face brightened and she said, "Oh, I didn't recognize you at first. This is the first time I've seen you with your clothes on."

Between the two of them it was a joke, but two ladies of the town happened to overhear the remark as they passed and gave a stony look at the pair. There was probably spicery conversation over the tea cups after that, so the editor told the complete story to clear his reputation.

Birthday Party
Usually those who attain a grand old age will drop hints of advice for longevity that indicate that good clean living pays. Mrs. Ann Parish of London, England, celebrated her 106th birthday not long ago. She ate three hearty meals smoked, had a nip of whisky and ended up with a little dance. Although she doesn't sound like the perfect older generation type herself, she thinks that the younger generation is even worse. Asked about the modern girl she said, "Dreadful! And the boys are just away with colds."

Shadowy Groundhog
The Dundalk Herald tells in the rather painful tone that is reserved for practical jokers of a Shelburne man who kept a dead groundhog in cold storage so he could bring it out on Groundhog Day. People who noticed the animal on his lawn were perhaps too startled to notice whether he cast a shadow or not for there is no mention of the forecast as Shelburneites saw it. The man had shot the groundhog some time before and, considering the possibilities, saved it.

Squirrel-Mice
The Erin Advocate tells of a species of mice there that, have caught onto squirrels' tricks. Two men were sawing down a tree near Erin when one said, "This tree is full of mice!" And it was—mice reported in the Advocate as charming little animals with furry ears, brown back and white underbody, marked a little like a deer.

Cold Wave
Anyone who has not had a cold this winter is almost a freak. It's not often that the common cold is so in the limelight that it is mentioned in the papers. Several, however, have mentioned the widespread effects of colds, the flu, and the in between stages. Last week East Elgin High School was closed since so many of the pupils were away with colds.

AT THE Churches

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 1951
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Subject—The Bible. (Sermon I)
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship. Subject—How Often Do we Die?
Members of the I.O.P.E. will worship with us Sunday evening.
Thought For The Week
"A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."—(Bailly)

St. Alban's Church
(Anglican)
Rector—Rev. W. G. Linton, B.A.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 1951
Lent II
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Holy Communion. Beginners' Class
7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer
Lenten service Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.
A Welcome Awaits You

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 1951
11:00 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 18th, 1951
10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible class
11:30 a.m. Morning Service
Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
Friday, 4:00 p.m. Mission Band Work meeting 8:00 p.m. N.Y.P.U.
Tuesday, Feb. 20th—Mission Circle at home of Mrs. Gordon Mitchell at 8 p.m.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

MEDICAL

DR. W. G. C. KENNEY
Physician and Surgeon
(Successor to Dr. J. A. McNeven)
Office in Symon Block, Mill St., Acton
Office Phone 78
Residence Church St. Phone 150

DR. D. A. GARRETT
Physician and Surgeon
Corner of Willow and River Sts.
Entrance River Street
Acton, Ontario
Phone 238

DENTAL

DR. A. J. BUCHANAN
Dental Surgeon
Office—Leishman 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

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Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public
Office 22 — Phone — Res. 151
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Veterinary Surgeons
Office: Brookville, Ontario
Phone—Milton 14674

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

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON:
Eastbound
6:38 a.m.; 8:50 a.m.; 11:23 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 5:03 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.; 11:2 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 8:48 a.m. 6:50 p.m. 7:44 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.

The Acton Free Press

The Only Paper Ever Published in Acton
Published each Thursday at 56 Mill St., Acton, Ontario
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa
Founded in 1875
Member Audit Bureau Circulation, C.W.N.A. and Ontario-Quebec Division C.W.N.A.
Advertising Rates on Request
SUBSCRIPTION IN ADVANCE, \$2.50 IN CANADA, \$3.00 IN UNITED STATES
Single Copies, 6c
TELEPHONES
Business and Editorial Office .. 174
Residence 131