

# EDITORIAL

## Cracker Barrel Farewell

Civil Defense and cramped quarters including poor social conditions have started a lot of talk about decentralization of the larger metropolitan areas. Just what started the huge exodus from country to city has been the basis of much conversation.

Unfortunately many editorialists have a tendency to generalize and consequently we read one writer in a daily newspaper yearning for the return of the general store and its cracker barrel.

It was not too long ago that general stores had their cracker barrels, barber shops were the main meeting place and some even had back rooms during elections that were pretty hot. There were exclusive card rooms, too, where conversation covered many points of general interest.

To return to our fellow editorialist though, he blames the farmer for the loss of the cracker barrel and general store, because the farmer could get things cheaper at a mail order store in the city.

These are a few of the points on which the writer bases his argument that few people are paying any attention to the decreasing population of the country towns.

How many towns are decreasing in size? How many farmers would not rather cut their corn with a corn cutter than a scythe? The cracker barrel has been replaced with many social functions and everyone seems to be happy—except perhaps our metropolitan writer who still mourns the loss of the cracker barrel, the village smithy and the general store.

The farmer's trade has certainly made the city the attractive place it is, but don't think the small country town has suffered too much. Especially those towns that haven't yielded to erection of such unwelcome things as parking meters. In the cracker barrel days there were no such things as paid hitching posts. The city today is losing a lot of its attractions for rural shoppers and certainly the saving angle has gone from city buying.

## It's a Small World

They say the world's getting smaller. Means of travel is so much swifter that one can be hundreds of miles away in a matter of hours. Through the daily newspapers we read of events on other continents just a few hours after their occurrence.

Thoughts of the past recall memories of when the troubles of the people next door or on the same street seemed to be the main concern of a family willing to help. Extra bedding and food was sent down the street by one of the children and offers of help were forthcoming over the fences.

But now our whole scope is broader, and it seemed as if the fellow Canadians in the Rimouski fire or the Winnipeg Flood were almost as close as the neighbours a few doors away with the awareness that equipment, food, medical supplies and trained personnel were being flown into the disaster areas, with lifesaving speed.

Our neighbourly impulse to send a cake or pie to a family nearby that has just lost a member through death or is afflicted with some communicable disease or sudden accident is transferred to neighbours the whole world over. The neighbours who go to a different church or who do not vote the same way still receive our sympathy in times of trouble—and so should other towns, provinces and countries.

And the impulse to send help is, of course, directed through the Red Cross, whose work of mercy never ends. Our contributions buy the supplies and send them on their way where they are the most needed as friendship and helpfulness spread over the globe. Our impulses are translated into action by the Red Cross.

The peace-time demand on the Red Cross has never been as great as it is now, and we know the need as well as we do that of our closest neighbours, friends and relatives. Let us feel we have a share in the actions of efficient friendship that are carried on everywhere in Canada in the name of the Red Cross and of humanity—through us.

## It Could Bear Scrutiny

At the risk of being called old-fashioned we dare to refer to an educational matter that has bothered us for some time. We know it's not Education Week, but we did pay our tribute to our present day education program in that week and perhaps we may dare a week or so later to voice a criticism.

Some place along the line from Kindergarten to High School graduation our school program has omitted the old-fashioned spelling bee and the mental arithmetic matches. We've heard a lot of the argument against them. We are interested in the product that is being produced without them. It may have been a good thing to eliminate them, but what has replaced them?

The graduates of our high schools and public schools are very bad spellers. Simple words are indiscriminately spelled, and proper division in syllables is evidently not understood. Additions quite easily in the scope of being done mentally have to be placed on a piece of paper and all the routine of visual addition made to arrive at an answer. If you don't believe it next time you make a purchase in a store where cash register addition is not used just watch the procedure on such an addition as 34 and 39 for example.

Ready spelling and rapid calculation are very convenient everyday accomplishments for any young folk. Matter of fact they are, in our estimation, more practical than some of the studies now being taught. But perhaps we're old fashioned and too practical and too concerned about the product and the general use of education.

At any rate here is a subject of our program that will bear discussion along with high costs, greater facilities and Hope Reports and such education matters.

## Efficient Distribution

A Globe and Mail editorial, discussing a social problem and a better method of distribution for family allowances, suggested recently that welfare agencies, operating on a local level, would be more efficient than the present system whereby each mother, rich or poor, is paid a certain amount for each child.

The editorial complains that the \$300 million Canada gives each year to the mothers is an extravagant method of helping needy children.

After having seen the efficiency with which government agencies, welfare or otherwise, operate, it seems that more children are sure of more help if the government does not set up welfare agencies on a local level for the 'efficient' doling out of family allowances.

The editorial goes on to suggest that "the government would make the money available to the municipalities, through the provinces, which their welfare agencies would distribute in relation to actual need. That money might readily be obtained from the savings that would result from scrapping the wasteful and unnecessary \$300 million family allowance machinery."

And now the editorialist suggests that "the municipality, or the local council, would administer the funds to the needy. This would mean another monumental task for underpaid councillors and in some cases unpaid councillors. It certainly would make quite a cut in distribution machinery, but at whose expense? Quite probably the municipality would suffer by not having any citizens accept office in the council. Who would decide the greatest need of specific cases in any community and retain his office with any regularity?"

## The Practical Approach

Last week we sat in on the advisory committee on the Journalism course at the Ryerson Institute of Technology. Fellow members of the committee attending the meeting were C. V. Charters, publisher of the Brampton Conservator; A. Furney, publisher of the Thorold News; Wells Ritchie, editor of Civic Administrator; Ted Gordon of Consolidated Press; R. A. Farquharson, managing editor of the Globe and Mail; A. R. Alway, president Oshawa Times-Gazette; J. H. Yocom of Saturday Night; H. A. Nicholson, of Printer and Publisher magazine; B. Perry of Thomson Dailies; Gillis Purcell of Canadian Press and K. S. Edey of University of Toronto. Principal Kerr of Ryerson Institute presided and members of the staff of Graphic Arts and Journalism courses were, of course, in the discussion.

We have always leaned toward a practical approach in our educational system and therefore enjoyed the session more than the Boards of public and high schools with which we have been associated in a local sphere for many years. We learned with some interest that the practical approach now showing up here and there in such places as the Ryerson Institute of Technology has been under consideration for twenty-five years with the Department of Education.

During the afternoon we became further aware of the struggle and objections to changes in another phase of Ontario's educational program. But when progress is being made, one does not consider the years. The sessions of this meeting were held in the original building built for the Ontario Department of Education and the office was originally that of Egerton Ryerson. It may be that later we will write further on the practical approach of features of our educational system. It's a subject we like very much and holds a great deal of interest. There are many courses offered at the Ryerson Institute and judging from enrolment they are proving very popular with many young people who are not inclined to more academic studies. The years ahead and the product they turn out will be the test of their efficacy.



"I'LL ADMIT HE'S HOMELY BUT YOU SHOULD SEE THE SIZE OF HIS MGOY BANK."

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

### BACK IN 1901

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 14, 1901

A couple of weeks ago Mr. Samuel Laird, who has been a familiar figure at the G.T.R. station for over thirty years, was retired. Mr. Laird came to Acton in 1870 and has been ever since employed as baggage man here. His early days were spent in his native city of Londonderry, Ireland. During his thirty-one years of service he was but three times off duty, and then only for a few days.

There is very general regret among all concerned and especially from the farmers of a wide radius from Acton that Messrs. Humphries and Hawke have discontinued to operate Acton Flour Mills. Acton again sends two men to South Africa. Both William Parnell and Joseph Lynd passed the military examinations at Stanley Barracks last week for positions on Col. Baden-Powell's Constabulary Force. They left Acton last Friday morning and are now en route for Halifax.

The first University lecture under the joint auspices of the Young People's Societies in towns was delivered last Friday evening by Mr. A. T. DeLury B.A. of Toronto University in the Methodist school room. A very select audience greeted the lecturer as Rev. H. A. MacPherson introduced him. The subject was "The sun, in its relation to terrestrial life and energy." At the close a very cordial vote of appreciation was moved by Rev. Mr. Hagar and seconded by Mr. Falconer and supported by complimentary remarks by the Chairman, Messrs. John Cameron, H. P. Moore, Rev. J. McLeod and Dr. J. A. Bell.

Messrs. Grennan and Co. have opened a grocery department in their store in J. D. McKee's old stand. About five inches of snow fell last Friday afternoon and evening. The milliners are getting ready for their openings.

From the advertisements—40 piece tea set, regular price \$5.50 sale price \$4.50. Ladies' ready-to-wear suit of French coating, with stylish Eton jacket, silk stitch collar, fancy sleeve, deep flounce and belted top on skirt, \$13.75. Ladies' suit of two-toned Scotch heather, tweed, double breasted jacket and flaring skirt, \$7.50.

### BACK IN 1931

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 5th, 1931.

Rumours are current of several business buildings that will be erected in Acton this coming season. Burglars stole the collection of Norfolk Street United Church in Guelph on Sunday from the home of the treasurer.

On Sunday evening the boys of the Tunis Group and their leader, Mr. E. H. Vincent, assisted Mr. Poole at the evening service in the United Church.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hemstreet, of Milton, are moving this week to their farm on Main Street recently purchased from Mr. G. A. Smith. Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Bishop attended the wedding of their young son, Alfred in Toronto on Saturday.

At a joint meeting of the Council, School Board and the Board of Health, the forming of a County Health Unit was opposed as too costly. Halton had been singled out for this plan as the first county owing to its compactness—it was an experiment.

Hockey events of the week are games with Georgetown for the Peter Smith trophy.

**DIED**  
STRAUSSER—H. Detroit, Mich., on Friday, February 27, 1931, Herbert Strauser, in his 37th year.

### THE FIRST ACCIDENT

He'd driven for years without an accident... so had most of the 65,000 odd drivers who got into accidents in Ontario last year. Next time we feel like giving some other driver a piece of our mind, we're going to stop, count ten, and remember the last time we pulled a stupid one on the road, with our own car. "Let him... cast the first stone..." You won't get away with inconsiderate driving every time.

### SUDDEN STOPS

Sudden stops are triple threats says the Department of Highways. They wear out tires, cause rear-end collisions, and startle drivers or people on foot into doing things that are dangerous. Proposed remedy: stop wasting nervous energy driving fast and getting into situations where you might have to stop dangerously.

# AT THE Churches

## United Church of Canada

**A FRIENDLY CHURCH**  
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Phone 60  
Rev. E. A. Conway, B.A., B.D., Minister  
Miss G. M. Loppert, A.T.C.M., Organist and Choir Leader

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18th, 1961**  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship Subject "Who is this?"  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship Subject "Pictures of the Oberammergau Passion Play"

**Thought for the Week**  
"He that will often put himself and the world before him, and who will dare to look steadfastly at both of them, will find that the more often he contemplates them, the former will grow greater and the latter less." (Colton)

## St. Alban's Church

(Anglican)  
Rector—Rev. W. G. Linton, B.A.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 18th, 1961**  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Holy Communion and Beginners' Class  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer. The preacher at the evening service, Rev. R. E. Porritt of Campbellville, A. Welcome awaits you

## Presbyterian Church in Canada

**KNOX CHURCH, ACTON**  
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG, M.A., Minister

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18th, 1961**  
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, MARCH 18th, 1961

10:30 a.m.—Sunday School and Bible Class  
11:30 a.m.—Morning Service  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Baptismal Service  
Mr. Woodcock will conduct both morning and evening services.  
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Prayer meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. Mitchell, 82 Mill St.  
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  
6:38 a.m.; 8:58 a.m.; 11:23 a.m.;  
2:08 p.m.; 3:03 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.; 11:23 p.m.; 1:12 a.m. (Sun. to Kitchener only)  
—Daily except Sunday and holidays.  
—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, 12:30 a.m.; daily except Sunday, 8:48 a.m.; 8:50 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.

**SLIPPERY WEATHER**  
Thaw temperatures are bad. Going up or down it is around freezing that roads are most slippery. When winter weather warms up, watch out. And when old man winter returns after a real thaw, watch out then too. Highway safety officials advise a practice they call "getting the feel of the road". What they mean is that when you start driving somewhere it pays to pick a safe place and deliberately try skidding. Then you'll know just how careful you have to be from then on.  
For many years machinery, not including farm machinery, has been the leading or among the first three principal commodities imported into Canada.

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