

EDITORIAL

Tax Dollars

Municipal tax bills have been sent out and like everything else, they are higher. There is always one factor that makes them more palatable than other imposts. For your municipal taxes you see the local work every day for which your money is spent. There are your schools, your water services, your streets, your sewage disposal system, your garbage collection, etc. These and many other services are provided by your municipal tax.

But did you ever try to enumerate the things that are done by your provincial and federal tax levies. Balance them off some day and you will find that dollar for dollar you get more that vitally affects you, from your municipal tax levy than you do for your provincial and federal tax assessments. Then of course, other levies are more difficult to put your finger on as they are of the concealed variety, whereas your municipal taxes come out in blunt and bold amount.

The Farmer's Raw Material

Farming is big business, it is a trade, a craft, a profession, and it certainly is a major consideration in the economy of this town and this country. Its importance has never been truly estimated, and never will, for it is the flour barrel of the country, and the provider of the nation.

The individual farmers are business men taking a living from the soil and in turn providing necessary products for public consumption. The good farmer, just as the good business man, must keep a watchful and understanding eye on his raw material.

One of the farmer's big raw material sources is the soil. Its care is as important and vital to this town and this nation as is the farmer. Conservation has been preached in one form or another for several years but still there are gigantic steps of improvement to be taken before the situation is nearly satisfactory.

A recent story in a national magazine pointed out the importance of water. Water is one branch, and an important one, in the overall picture of conservation. Soil erosion is another major factor in the inclusive term "conservation." We have never been behind a plow or cultivator but we understand that it is simpler to plow by the contour method than by the straight furrow. Not only that, but, the method is an important advance in the field of conservation. Soil erosion is cut to a minimum since the water as it passes over the field is slowed up and the top soil deposited on the land rather than in the nearest creek or termination of the small rivulet.

Halton County is taking steps in reforestation that are helping immensely, but the woodlots must be retained since trees hold moisture in the ground where it is so necessary.

The farmer is not the only one concerned with the vital issue of conservation. We in the town have known the scarcity of water with shut-offs and curtailment in the heat of summer months. And conservation in the soil and its water supply have been driven home.

Let us look at our raw material source and retain the cautious watchful eye that the soil and its care require. Make conservation a byword when you plow your fields, using the contour method this spring. Do your share towards the betterment of a country and a nation.

Big and Small Theft

The exposure by the Financial Post of the affairs of the United Emergency Fund for Britain is a public service, and a warning to all that there are too many smooth-tongued operators who are willing to drag the name of charity in the mud for the sake of personal gain. It appears, according to the Post's findings, that of the \$593,000 raised by the U.E.F.B. only \$880 went to buy food for Britain.

The sordid details as given do not make pleasant reading. We cannot see the need for a slow government investigation now that the damage has been done, but there is a need for safeguards to see that there can be no repetition of such betrayal of public trust and a need for adequate punishment of those who have committed such a sin against all charities. Such a betrayal of trust is going to be detrimental to many public charities in Canada—most of which are well administered and carefully supervised. Surely in this land where we have laws that provide punishment for the theft of a loaf of bread we can provide adequate punishment for those who divert charity funds to their own purposes rather than those for which it was given. Surely our laws are for the punishment of the big operator as well as the small time thief.

Another Nuisance Tax

It's so easy these days to slip in a new tax to meet government spending that the general public does not arise to the seriousness of the tax until it actually hits their pocketbook.

Under discussion at Ottawa now is a proposal to amend the Canadian Constitution, the British North America Act, so as to permit the provinces to impose indirect taxation. The scheme that the Federal and Provincial Governments have concocted is that the provinces would be allowed to collect a tax of three per cent. on gross retail sales and would apply the amounts so collected to paying their share of old-age pensions.

Naturally, such a tax would add to the cost of living of everyone in the country, because all taxes that increase the cost of goods must be paid finally by the consumer of those goods, but, to collect the tax the retailers will somehow have to add more than three per cent. to some of their prices.

But what about the application of a three per cent. tax to the small items we purchase daily. A three per cent. retail tax on the six cents you pay for The Free Press would be about a fifth of a cent. To collect this the retailer would be obliged to charge a cent since no smaller coin is available. The same would apply to soft drinks, pipe cleaners and a multitude of small items. The retailer would have the option of absorbing the tax or charging it and perhaps losing the trade.

There are already sufficient bothersome taxes now. The time to stop another one being foisted on the public is now. An eight per cent. sales tax is sufficient. Let the governments give attention to pruning their spending rather than devoting energy to conjuring up new taxes.

Community Centre "Rash"

The Huntsville Forester recently commented that that town, like a lot more Ontario centres came dangerously near infection with the prevalent community centre "rash", when the whole province was being swept off its feet with a rapid current of enthusiasm. The town without a community centre, specially designed and built for the purpose, was something of a back number.

In various parts of the province, ample time has now passed to test the practicability of the idea. Towns where there was impetus yielding to the craze, have now an opportunity to sit back and study the wisdom or folly of their impetuosity.

In a recent editorial, The Toronto Daily Star discusses some of the experiences. The following excerpt reveals results which amply justify the caution exercised in Huntsville. The Star says:

"The latest centre to have an unhappy experience with a new arena is Fergus, Ontario, where Scottish thrift has been shocked by the existence of unexpected capital debts of \$9,000 on a building owned by the municipality, but operated by a commission on which the village has only two representatives. The municipality will issue \$10,000 worth of debentures to cover the loss.

"Waterloo has advanced loans of \$20,000 and \$5,000 to the Waterloo memorial arena commission this winter. Attendance at the hockey games has been poor. Faced with a quest for a \$7,000 debenture issue to cover debts unpaid when artificial ice was installed in its arena, Kincardin council suggested a further drive for funds instead. Owen Sound arena, which paid well the first year, is said to have fallen behind since then."

The obvious lesson to be drawn from the experiences of the towns referred to, is that municipalities, as well as individuals, must sit back for a period, and give intelligent consideration to projects supported by a frenzy of public clamour. Precipitous action is too often followed by regrets. It appears now that many of the towns yielding to the pressure are in the regretful class.

Editorial Notes

Spring roads are pretty much as usual throughout the county—not suitable for motor travel. But the season of inconvenience is generally short.

The increase of milk prices by a cent or two cents creates more furor than the increase by a dollar or so on a bottle of liquor. But then, of course, liquor is not an everyday necessity to everyone.



THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1901

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, April 4, 1901

The cyclists are not encouraged to do much exploiting on the streets here yet. The Milton Reformer says: "A young couple not many miles from Milton went to Toronto on their wedding tour. They registered at the hotel and went to their room. The groom left the bride in the room and went to the office. When he returned he knocked at the door and said, 'Honey'. No answer. Again rap and 'Honey'. And then came the reply, 'Go away, you idiot. This isn't a bee-hive, its a bathroom.' He had knocked at the wrong door."

A baseball club was organized for the following season Tuesday evening, with the following officers elected, hon. pres., W. A. Storey; pres., I. Francis; first vice-pres., Ceylon J. Smith; second vice-pres., A. J. Gentles; sec. treas., Fred Ryder; manager, D. Beattie; managing committee, W. A. Storey, H. H. Worden, H. Jeans, A. J. McKinnon, D. Beattie, E. Ryder. Property committee, H. Jeans, N. McNabb, R. Holmes.

Yesterday was not a propitious day for the millinery openings. The unfavourable weather and slushy walks did not, however, deter a goodly number of ladies from venturing out to feast on the display of hats and bonnets prepared by skillful fingers for spring wear. The visitors to Henderson and Co. show-rooms found themselves in charming surroundings. Among the multitude of styles shown the pancake hats predominate and the pastel shades are everywhere in evidence. A very pretty creation is a violet hat and another equally attractive is a forget-me-not. New colors in trimming are old rose and antique blues, and the trimmings themselves comprise a profusion of flowers, gauzes, chiffons and gilt effects. The B. Grennan Co. made their bow as caterers to the ladies' wants in millinery yesterday. The trimmings are flowers, foliage, ribbons, chiffons, taffeta silk and there is a touch of gold or a gold shade in nearly everything. In new shades purples, pinks and shrum shades are numerous.

A freight train broke in two going west on Monday morning, while climbing the grade between here and Rockwood.

For some time rumours have been current that an old shack on Main St. was a gambling resort which was frequented by a number of young fellows whose morals were not improved thereby. It was even hinted that liquors were sold there. As people returned home from church last Sabbath evening, smoke was to be seen issuing from the chimney and a gleam of light here and there strayed through the carefully chinked windows and walls. A trio of women in town, raided the place with the temerity of the Carrie Nation order, after considerable difficulty, identified the inmates and secured possession of a pack of cards. It is hoped that Acton will not be again disgraced by the presence within her borders of such a disreputable den.

SWEDISH DEER FOR SCOTLAND

25 reindeer are to be brought from Northern Sweden to Scotland as a limited experiment to find out whether reindeer can be usefully and successfully reared there.

DIED

WOODS—At St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, on Thursday, March 29, 1931, George T. Woods, beloved husband of Alice L. Fletcher in his 52nd year.

FRYER—At the home, Main Street, Acton, on Tuesday, March 31, 1931, Mary Ann Hodgins, wife of William Fryer in her 64th year.

Challenge Outside Too Much Strain

Right now is a good time to go outdoors and look around, without bothering to read further in this. You would be much better off outdoors. Any time is good for going there, but this moment is the only time you can do it, sandwiching the doing between regrets for not getting out more in the past, and determination to make more of a point of it in the future. Most people like it better inside, though few will admit to this. Surely it must be so, however, for as humans gain some control over their environment and develop civilization they tend to move indoors, where they sit around and complain that they are not getting out enough. The trouble with outdoors is that it is more of a strain.

Indoors is easier on the body and makes less of a challenge to character. When you are out there may be the vast sky to see, or a brook, trees, the ocean perhaps, or mountains, or a prairie. Appreciating them requires a depth of feeling that makes one wonder why he does not do this more often, but after a while there comes a fatigue of the spirit as well as of the body. Even lesser sights that one encounters outdoors, real peculiar sights like a sidewalk crowded with other humans, challenge the ego. And the streets are so much longer than oneself, the buildings so much higher. Indoors is the place for the poor in spirit, where they may dwell upon their little pictures and their bric-a-brac, shutting away the far sweep of the universe. Or where they may sit writing this. Must get out more, though.—The Printed Word.

X-RAY PHOTOS

British doctors, wishing to consult urgently with colleagues in other countries can now transmit X-Ray photos by means of the Post Office-Cable and Wireless Photography service.

AT THE Churches

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Rev. E. A. Curry, M.A., B.D., Minister
Miss O. M. Langford, A.T.C.M., Organist and Choir Leader
SUNDAY, APRIL 8th, 1951
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship
7.00 p.m.—Evening Worship

St. Alban's Church
(Anglican)
Rector—Rev. W. G. Lupton, B.A.
SUNDAY, APRIL 8th, 1951
Easter 2
9.00 a.m.—Holy Communion
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School
11.00 a.m.—Beginners' Class
7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer
Wednesday, April 11, 7 p.m.—Junior Confirmation Class
A Welcome Awaits You

Presbyterian Church in Canada
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG, M.A., Minister
SUNDAY, APRIL 8th, 1951
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School
11.00 a.m.—District Worship
7.00 p.m.—Evening Worship
Visitors welcome

Baptist Church ACTON
SUNDAY, APRIL 8th, 1951
10.30 a.m.—Sunday School and Bible Class
11.30 a.m.—Mr. Alfred Kitchen, Service in Chesham
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Prayer Meeting
Friday 4.15 p.m.—Mission Band; 8 p.m.—B.Y.P.U.

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GRAY COACH LINES
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Eastbound
8.30 a.m.; 9.50 a.m.; 11.23 a.m.; 2.01 p.m.; 5.03 p.m.; 6.33 p.m.; 8.33 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.; 11.37 p.m.; 1.12 a.m. (Sun. to Kitchener only)
Daily except Sunday and holidays.
Sat., 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.; 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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