

EDITORIAL

Pedestrian Rights

Springtime and new bicycles or even old bicycles which have been in winter storage are things that go together so joyously that it seems too bad to put in any discordant thought. Before any serious accident occurs, it might be well, however, to drop a reminder that sidewalks are built for pedestrians only and this might also be a hint to motorists as well who park negligently or without regard to rights of pedestrians.

We know that roads in town are not the best. We have a general idea that it's much easier and better riding on the sidewalks for bicyclists. But surely everyone will agree that such a practice is dangerous to both pedestrian and cyclist. Besides it's against the law to ride bicycles on sidewalks. Every day there are near accidents. A word of caution should stop the practice and if not the strict application of the law will be found costly to those who persist.

Slaves In Halton

Whether it's a claim to fame or not, the last slaves to be freed in Ontario probably lived in Halton County! There is mention in a book called "The Slave in Canada" that "probably the last slaves to become free were two who were mentioned by the late Sir Adam Wilson-Hank and Sukey, whom he met at the residence of Mrs. O'Reilly, mother of the venerable Miles O'Reilly, Q.C., in Halton County about 1830. They took freedom under the act of 1833, and were perhaps the last slaves in the province."

Canada was acting with Britain in outlawing the practice some 30 years before the United States. Slavery was outlawed in the British Empire in 1833, but not declared illegal in the United States until 1863. In Russia, a Czar's decree declared all serfs free in 1861.

Actually the sale of slaves in Canada diminished some years before the actual abolition and there were no sales at all after 1806 as far as any records show.

Investigation of Education

In the mail this week we received a bound copy of the Report of the Royal Commission on Education. On a subject over which there has been so much controversy, we are glad to have the report for ready reference although we do not plan to read its 933 pages through. The book has thirty chapters and lists 475 witnesses that were heard. It is a report that will perhaps not have immediate effect on our educational system but its findings will have a bearing over many years. The work done on investigation certainly deserves to be preserved.

From time to time every system requires some time and study in order that it may give a service to the community and its citizens. We hear a great deal these days about educational costs. It is usually the major item of every municipal tax bill and in addition large funds are supplied from the provincial treasury. There's a big investment in buildings and equipment for our educational system. Every service or every business requires an analysis from time to time and such has been this very thorough report on education.

One hears quite often complaints of the system that takes so many young folks away from the farms and leaves them under-staffed. We have sympathy for the aging tiller of the soil whose sons have through his efforts been educated and found more lucrative positions in other vocations and left the parents to carry on the very essential job of supplying the essentials of life. We can understand there may be some bitterness attached to the culmination of this lifetime of effort. It's not the parents' fault or the ambition of the young folks cannot be criticized. Perhaps the fault lies beyond the realm of our educational system but perhaps part of the cure may be found here.

At any rate it does no harm to occasionally stop and investigate our trends of life and certainly the training of our young people is an important phase of our life. Therefore, we welcome this report and its availability to the public. Its recommendations may not all be acceptable or desirable but we at least have the result of investigation upon which to base judgment.

New Processes and Machines

Many new ways of doing things develop these days. Of particular interest to us was a machine recently demonstrated that modestly claims "to eliminate all type, all typesetters, all linotype machines and all casting of type." It is operated by electric impulses. We have heard already and seen machines which use photography instead of metal type. We have read of printing presses where the paper doesn't touch the type but the ink jumps for the short space between type and paper to put the impression on the sheet. There isn't a month goes by in which some new improvement in the process of print-

ing is in the trade papers. One needs to keep alert in any business these days and never to regard anything as impossible.

It's not only the printing industry that is faced with such changes. Which reminds us that they come slowly. We recall that at the beginning of the century the linotype was ousting the hand set method of typesetting and there were dire predictions that the days of the printer were numbered and it was foolish to learn the trade.

Sometimes we think it's well that man's useful span of life isn't usually more than fifty years. Because really that's about all the changes that can be absorbed and there is no cause for one to worry overly much beyond this cycle. All ages are ages of change and improvement. It's a matter of keeping adaptable and willing to accept changes and not a subject to worry about.

There is another point worthy of consideration in these changes. No man or group of tradesmen have a monopoly on any methods. When the process or trade becomes too costly new methods are bound to be developed to meet the situation. There is no guarantee of security in any line of business despite what may be written into union or other agreements. Every industry has its examples. The wood-burning locomotives were replaced by coal-burners and coming more and more we have the diesels replacing steam engines. What the future holds will be accepted according to the needs of the people rather than by the rules of various labor organizations or the wishes of any groups.

Holiday Sound

For some unexplained reason the move to have national holidays celebrated on the nearest Monday has been described as unwise. Business organizations and others which have advocated the change are on sound ground. They should continue to push for this long overdue reform.

When these holidays fall in the middle of the week, as May 24 does this year, there is a costly and unnecessary interruption for industry and the average citizen gets little benefit from his day off. This matter is serious enough at any time but more so now with the country concentrating on production for defense.

Victoria Day is only a few weeks away. It appears nothing can be expected to meet the situation this year. As a result many places either will not observe the day or else will close on Friday instead of Thursday upon which the 24th falls this year.

A Newspaper Is On Its Own

A newspaper, unlike a hospital, a church or a benevolent organization, cannot make a public appeal to meet its operating costs.

A newspaper, unlike a school, is not financed to do a job of education out of the taxpayers' pockets. A newspaper to perform a community service must interest and entertain its readers sufficiently that they will pay for it at so much per copy and must serve its advertisers well enough that they get good value for the space they buy.

Thus the final judge of what is printed in a newspaper must be the editorial staff because it is their money and their jobs which are at stake.

Anyone may ensure that a certain bit of news or propaganda is published by paying for advertising space. Anything else that is printed or not printed must be at the discretion solely of the people who own and work on the paper.

It may sound harsh but it is one of those facts of life in journalism. Setting every line of type costs money. Printing each page costs a lot more. Every news item in the Free Press costs the newspaper an average of one and one-half cents per word.

Editorial Notes

Walkerton claims the lowest fire losses in any Ontario town in the past five years. Losses from 1944-48 are given as \$2,129.

Once again we issue the warning to be careful with grass fires in spring and to use care in discarding cigarette butts and matches.

We join with other editors and friends in this district in extending congratulations to Editor and Mrs. E. Harris of Burlington on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. May they have many more happy years together in the community they have served so well and where they have spent their life.

The Powassan News has completed forty-two years of publication and has the unique distinction of having the founder still as editor. J. B. Lake, who went from here, founded the paper and has given a community service to Powassan that is exemplary. May he keep in the job for many more years is the wish of friends in the weekly newspaper field with which we are sure citizens of Powassan will agree.



"NO! NO! DON'T ENLARGE ME - JUST THE FISH."

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1901

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 2nd, 1901

The boys took their first swim in Fairy Lake on Saturday. The tulips are blooming and lend an elegant coloring to the vernal tints of spring.

The 24th of May will hereafter be known as "Victoria Day" and will be a public holiday.

The Portrait Gallery Social given by the Epworth League in the Methodist Sunday School Room on Monday evening was a highly enjoyable affair. The 200 portraits exhibited were tastefully arranged on backgrounds of white cotton and the competition was in naming correctly the faces shown. The prize was won by Miss Tom Currie, teacher of the fourth department of Acton Public School. The prize was a portfolio of local and provincial views taken and arranged by Mr. A. T. Brown, the president of the league, who is well known as an expert amateur photographer.

A trio of Toronto sports obtained the town hall last Friday for an ostensible talking machine demonstration. In the evening they called Reeve Williams to ask if a boxing contest would be allowed. He replied that the hall was in the hands of the caretaker and if anything illegal occurred they would have to take the consequences. The current question on the streets next day was, "Were you at the prize fight in the town hall last night?" The affair is said to have been disgraceful.

The first baseball match of the season was played on Saturday by two teams of juniors, the Shamrocks and the Maple Leafs. The score was 23 to 22 in favor of the former. The Shamrocks' team were M. McEachern, A. Dynes, J. Saunders, H. Williams, C. Clark, P. Griffiths, W. Saunders, Fred Graham and E. Worden and the Maple Leafs were C. Ramshaw, C. Bauer, F. Hildonbrand, E. Abraham, J. Welford, D. Ritchie and Harold Wiles.

There has been a pretty general increase in wages at the tanneries the past month.

Among the amendments to the Lord's Day Act, passed at the last session of the Legislature, was one prohibiting Sunday excursions. This the christian people of the province regard with much gratification and importance.

DIED
LILLIE - Accidentally killed at Brockwood on Thursday, April 23, 1931. James W. Lillie, of Everton, in his 68th year.

KELLY - Suddenly on the train en route from Florida, on Thursday, April 23, 1931, the wife of Charles W. Kelly, of Guelph.

Pine trees are less likely to be struck by lightning because their resin interferes with their conducting of electricity.

Doctor Discusses Infant Mortality

Each year 20,000 Canadians die before they reach their 15th birthday, including 18,000 who die before they are five years old.

Authority for that startling statement is Dr. Cecil Collins-Williams, Director of the Child and Maternal Health Division of the Health League of Canada. At a public meeting of the League's division, held in Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, he remarked that "these figures become all the more tragic when we realize that medical science at the present time has progressed far enough to make a great many of these deaths preventable."

Dr. Collins-Williams dealt in particular with the causes and incidence of infant mortality, the problems of un-pasteurized milk and the incidence of diphtheria and fatal accidents among children. The results of these studies, he said, led to the conclusion that many of these ills could be prevented by an increased public awareness of them.

BACK IN 1931

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 30th, 1931

Armistice Day will be known as Remembrance Day hereafter and observed on November 11, as a legal holiday.

The Acton Branch of the Canadian Legion received two appreciated gifts. Mrs. W. J. Gould gave a splendid piano for the club rooms and Major Grant of Georgetown sent ten dollars to help the branch get started.

The millionth Ford car made in Canada paid its official visit to Acton on Friday last and was inspected by many citizens at Norton Motors showrooms. Across the border the twentieth millionth car was run off the assembly line just the week before.

The Knox Players of Acton presented the play "Fining It for Father" in Guelph Knox Church which was highly appreciated by a large audience.

The Intermediate Hockey Team and the Tug-of-war team were tendered a banquet and dance by the Municipal Council in recognition of their achievements.

Lt. Col. A. O. T. Beardmore V.D. has been appointed Honorary A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada.

The Acton Athletic Association reports a good year and is in good financial standing in spite of the fact that the Association contributed \$112.50 toward the cost of moving the Grandstand and \$200 toward the purchase of a horse-drawn lawn mower for the park.

AT THE Churches

United Church of Canada
Acton, Ontario
A FRIENDLY CHURCH.
Parsonage—29 Howe Avenue
Phone 60
Rev. E. A. Curvey, B.A., B.D., Minister
Miss O. M. Lampard, A.T.C.M., Organist and Choir Leader

SUNDAY, MAY 6th, 1951
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship

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

SUNDAY, MAY 6th, 1951
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship
7:00 p.m.—Divine Worship

ALL ARE WELCOME

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

SUNDAY, MAY 6th, 1951
Sunday after Ascension Day
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Holy Communion and Beginners' Class
7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer
Junior Confirmation Class Wednesday at 7 p.m.
A Welcome Awaits You

Baptist Church
ACTON

SUNDAY, MAY 6th, 1951
(Daylight Saving Time)
10:30 a.m.—Sunday School and Bible Class
11:30 a.m.—Rev. W. M. MacDonald, Guelph, Ont.
12:30 p.m.—Communion
Thursday—Mission Circle visits Brampton 7:15 p.m.
Friday—4:00 p.m.—Mission Band; 8:00 p.m.—B.Y.P.U. Annual business meeting and election of officers
Wednesday—8:00 p.m.—Prayer Meeting

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

MEDICAL

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

DR. D. A. GARRETT
Physician and Surgeon
Corner of Willow and River St., 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

LEGAL

C. F. LEATHERLAND
Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public
Office 22 — Phone — Its 151
ACTON

LEVER & HOSKIN
Chartered Accountants
Successors to J. A. McEwen
JENKINS AND HARDY
1305 Metropolitan Bldg.
44 Victoria St., Toronto
Etr. 9131

WILLOUGHBY FARM AGENCY
Largest and Oldest Agency in Canada
Head Office, 306 Bay St., Toronto
Phone EMpire 3-0604
Georgetown Representative
Tom Hewson
Phone Georgetown 332W

WRIGHT REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE
F. L. WRIGHT N. B. WRIGHT
20 Wilbur St., 59 Macdonnell St.
Acton, Ont.
Phone 95 Phone 4915W

Valuators, Realtors, Insurers
Member Appraisal Institute of Canada
Members Guelph and District Real Estate Board
Members Guelph and District Insurance Agents' Association

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
Standard Time

Eastbound
Daily 5:55 a.m.; Daily except Sunday 9:54 a.m.; 7:10 p.m. Sunday only 8:10 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 12:08 a.m.; daily except Sunday 4:48 a.m.; 6:50 p.m.; 7:44 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 5:48 p.m.; (flagstop); Saturday only 1:30 p.m.; Sunday only 8:43 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday only, Flyer at Guelph, 7:06 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
6 months, \$1.50 Single Copies, 6c

TELEPHONES
Business and Editorial Office... 174
Residence... 131

Progressive Merchants Advertise