

EDITORIAL

Heavy on the Power

According to the latest municipal load summary of municipalities, Acton folks are heavy users of Hydro power. Taken on an average for the number of consumers we doubt if few towns in Ontario come near the rate of use. The figures are given for April, 1951, in the recent issue of Hydro News and show Acton has 925 consumers and the peak load was 2,615. Georgetown with 1,356 consumers had a load of 2,552; Milton with 869 consumers had a load of 1,966; Burlington with 2,014 consumers had a peak load of 2,546 and Oakville with 2,121 consumers ran up 4,153; Fergus had 1,078 consumers for a load of 1,863.

The figures are, of course, explained by the fact of Acton's heavy industrial load and the use of the industries in Acton make of Hydro. This will be noted all through the figures given in the load summary of the municipalities. For instance, Hespeler with 1,147 consumers had a peak load of 3,629 K.W.

The figures for the towns of Halton show that this county has a heavy trend toward more industry which is only natural for its location near the distributing centres of Toronto and Hamilton. It's a long way from when Acton's load was about 100 K.W. to the present. Acton has shown great strides in industrial growth and with it the town has kept pace in rendering population.

The Trend To Small Towns

Industrial expansion in Ontario continues at a breath-taking rate with the emphasis on decentralization. Col. the Hon. William Griesinger, Ontario Minister of Planning and Development, disclosed recently in releasing the annual review of the Trade and Industry Branch.

The report, submitted to the Minister by Director F. J. Lyle, listed major expansions and new plant developments of record during 1950 and remarked on two steadily developing trends:

(1) Choice of smaller towns and cities by a majority of companies establishing new plants and plant additions;

(2) Growth of manufacturing as the predominant factor in the Ontario economy.

Mr. Lyle developed the statement that industry was showing greater interest in smaller towns and cities by citing the record of new branch plants established in the Province last year. Of 77 new plants, no fewer than 51 chose locations outside the province's largest industrial area.

"A number of factors influenced this trend, including the availability and cost of housing and labour", the Trade and Industry Branch director reported. "Close proximity to consumer markets will always be an influencing factor in some types of production and in heavy manufacturing the source of materials also counts heavily. But a substantial number of manufacturing enterprises prefer favourable locations in smaller towns and cities".

A glance at the annual report shows that Acton was prominent in the small town group of which Mr. Lyle speaks. Listed in the new developments are A. P. Greene Fire Brick Co. and in plant extensions the Acton Machine Shops and Foundry and Micro Plastics.

Community Workers

With the tourist season on us and American cars a familiar scene on the highways our eyes may be focussed on what are sometimes termed Tourist towns or centres to which the visitors or holidayers are attracted because of natural surroundings.

Bracebridge is an important tourist centre for this reason but another contributing factor is a wide-awake, active, interested Chamber of Commerce. Working in the community interest they are also working in their own interests.

An advertisement in the Bracebridge paper asks citizens to park their cars off the main street during the summer months as a "Courtesy to Tourists". As another courtesy they don't have parking meters either.

That is just a small courtesy for a tourist town backed by community workers under the title of the Chamber of Commerce.

Conditions vary in all towns but where there is an active Chamber of Commerce composed of energetic workers many improvements can be made. Where there is no such organization the heavier load falls on the shoulders of the council.

We always believed that "whitewash" was a term that implied an easy victory until we tackled the application of the substance on basement walls. We now have new respect for the term.

Rock-A-Bye Baby

Debenture debts in municipalities have long been expected to end. Each auditor's report points out that eventually the municipality will be free of all incumbrances in the form of debentures.

A Cooksville councillor recently pointed to the doubling debenture debt in Toronto Township and the reeve said, "We're going too far, too fast". A ratepayer said it was only a matter of time before township financing is taken over by the Ontario Municipal Board.

We don't regard the Cooksville gentlemen as authorities on the question but in complaining of the subject they are repeating an oft heard "beef". The alarming statement of the three is the one that suggests the Municipal Board will soon be taking over township financing.

This is another cry for governmental spoon feeding. You hear them every day. Why don't we have rent control, wage control, price control and any number of other controls.

Municipalities elect representatives to council each year. Their duty is to conduct the business of the town or township and in most of the cases they do it without extensive remuneration.

The Ontario Municipal Board is a body governing the municipalities in almost every binding thing they do or undertake. All by-laws must be submitted to them for approval, including money by-laws and a Cooksville ratepayer suggests that soon all township financing will be taken over by the Municipal Board. When did they stop?

The main thing is they never did stop but apparently we are growing so accustomed to controls we are unable to recognize their beginning and their end.

Controls—and extensive controls—are governmental spoon feeding and when those in government cease to be servants, taking the place of masters, is when John Public wakes up in the cradle again.

A Dose of Laziness

In moderation, laziness can be one of the most delightful sensations on earth, and not something to be ashamed of as it's presently regarded. Certainly it has fallen into low esteem with the man who works himself into the doctor's office and the woman who is always fluttering at something seeming due citation for general praise, and nervous breakdowns the proof of an active life.

Let's forget about praise and profit! It's holiday time—and hot. It's the season for some good, commonsense laziness. And let's enjoy it! No sneaked siestas inside where the neighbours can't draw conclusions from your prone form and any luxuriant weeds in the garden. Bundle your holiday jobs into a few days and then enjoy a good rest.

Certainly it would be bad if we fell into a mental slump induced by over eighty temperatures. But, during the week or two of legalized laziness this summer, let's let our minds relax. Save up the threat of communism, high cost of living, taxes, and all the other problems till the first day back to work. It seems a reasonable conclusion that after a restful holiday, we will be even more able to cope with business and world problems... we hope we'll find it that way.

Meanwhile, we'll give ourselves the benefit of the doubt and recommend to everyone a dose of just as much laziness as feasible during holidays this year. "A change is as good as a rest", they say, and where a vacationist incorporates both, double benefit should surely result!

This office will be closed from July 20 till August 7, and there will be no paper published that week while we enjoy our prescribed laziness.

Editorial Notes

The hay crop is reported as record-breaking this year but some harvest weather would be helpful if the abundance is to be stored.

Bowmanville has started the new plan of equalized assessment. We hope it is available for use sooner than the five years that were required for Halton County.

These are holiday times and many industries are closing so that employees can enjoy the vacations. Our holiday period will be from July 28th until August 6th inclusive.

Next Sunday—July 15—is St. Swithin's Day, and if it rains, then, it will rain for 40 days, according to superstition. St. Swithin, made Bishop of Winchester in 836, had a great influence over the kings of his time. It remains to be seen what influence he has over the weather of 1951.



THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1901

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 11, 1901

At the meeting of council on Monday it was moved by H. Swackhamer, seconded by H. Jeans, that the petition of Wm. Williams and others for the construction of a cement concrete sidewalk on the south side of Mill St. between Main St. and Willow St. be granted, also moved by Geo. Hynds, seconded by John A. Henderson that the petition of R. D. Graham and R. D. Warren for a sidewalk on the east side of Willow St. from Mill St. to Bower Ave. be granted, both being sufficiently signed.

"Your Jack has gone up to see Dolly," said a humorous lady resident of Limehouse to her somewhat jealous neighbour the other day. "Dolly who?" was the rather agitated question. "Why, Dolly Warden, of course, where he works." was the witty reply. And now these two good neighbours will hardly speak to each other.

Orange ribbons and the life and drum will predominate tomorrow. There is a case of smallpox in Halton County.

The telephone exchange at A. T. Brown's drug store will be materially changed and improved. Mr. Brown, the manager of the Bell Telephone Co.'s business here, is always on the alert to make the central office satisfactory to the patrons, and by the new arrangement greater convenience and privacy will be secured.

The Acton Free Press is 26 years old and goes on prospering.

The electric storm which accompanied the rain last Friday evening short circuited electric light wires and over 100 lamps were burned out, 24 of them in Agnew's Hotel.

There is a lingering love in the hearts of the members of Knox Church, Acton, for the old manse and glebe. This, together with the popularity of the present owner, Mr. Hugh Wallace and his family, assured a successful gathering on Thursday night of last week. Acton Cornet Band led the way to the grounds. Bagpipers, too! "Heavenly music" according to Rev. Mr. Blair—and he is an authority on all things theological.

Forest Fires Cause Immense Damage

"During the past year 88 per cent of the 6,310 forest fires which occurred in Canada were man-caused," stated Resources Minister Robert Winters, in releasing the national forest fire statistics for 1950.

"While the total number of forest fires was encouragingly lower than the 1949 total of 7,046," he added, "it is regrettable that the proportion of man-caused fires should have climbed almost 8 per cent over the percentage of man-caused fires of the previous year's total."

The highest percentage of forest fires was attributed to smokers—23.3 per cent of the total number. Campfires were responsible for 18.2 per cent, followed by settlers' fires 12.4 per cent, and railways 10.6 per cent. From the previous 10-year average, the 1950 figures reveals increases in all percentages of man-caused fires.

The damage caused by forest fires was estimated for 1950 at nearly \$5,000,000 and the cost of fighting these fires amounted to approximately \$2,000,000.

The annual value of fur production in the Northwest Territories averages close to \$2,500,000.

BACK IN 1931

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 9th, 1931

Acton Orangemen will join in the Orange celebration at Milton on Saturday.

Knox church Sunday School held a picnic at Edgewood Park yesterday. In the baseball tournament there were four entries known as the U.F.O., the Sunday School, the Oldtimers and the Outlaws.

Magistrate Bull of Brampton, has been appointed to attend the duties of the late Police Magistrate Moore in the northern part of Halton County and Magistrate McEwen of Oakville, in the southern part of the county.

On Tuesday evening as Mr. Wm. Patterson was driving along the road in Nassagaweya, opposite the McKinnon farm, a year old deer ran along in front of the car for a hundred yards or so before disappearing in the bush.

Beardmore Leathers Limited are making alterations at the warehouse in preparation for moving the top and cut sole factory from Toronto to Acton.

Hundreds of friends and acquaintances attended the funeral of the late H. P. Moore on Saturday afternoon. In every walk of life Acton and a wide circle will miss this man, who by his fairness endeared himself into the lives of all.

BORN
SMITH—In Acton, on Saturday, July 4th, 1931, to Mr. and Mrs. A. G. C. Smith, a son.

Ritual of Plowing Enjoyed on Farms

We believe it true that most farmers enjoy plowing. Plowing is such an ancient rite that it has become a part of the cycle of the year, and omission of the yearly turning of the earth, if it were possible, would be regretted even by those who search hardest for time and labor-saving methods.

Whether the plowman harnesses the most aged and quietest of teams, and passes the dwindling days of the year in the slow pursuit of a single plowshare, or yields to the bustling spirit of the times and employs a tractor, the end sought remains the same, only the means are different.

The man who sticks to the older method of turning his furrow may do so from innate conservatism, or because he cannot afford new machinery. Yet there are some cogent factors. No other country pursuit is done in the same leisurely manner. If the weather is warm, the men and horses all need frequent rests. It is only necessary to look around to enjoy earth and sky in the most beautiful time of year.

The mechanical farmer misses all this, losing the beauty of the autumn scene in the movement, and clatter of his machine. He must keep his attention riveted on his work on fine days and if the weather is cold, he cannot warm himself by working more briskly. A cold wind can chill to the bone after a few hours on an open tractor.

A sense of satisfaction in doing a hard job well and quickly must replace the quiet appreciation of the honorable art of ruling whole fields into new patterns, for the farmer who prefers up-to-date methods. The introduction of a new way of doing an accustomed task is not without a side effect on the mind and thoughts of the man who does the work.

AT THE Churches

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SUNDAY, JULY 15th, 1951
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship in Knox Church.

Presbyterian Church in Canada
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG
M.A., B.D., Minister
SUNDAY, JULY 15th, 1951
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship
7:00 p.m.—Divine Worship
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
ALL ARE WELCOME

St. Alban's Church
(Anglican)
Rector—Rev. W. G. Lurton, B.A.
SUMMER SERVICES
JULY AND AUGUST
Each Sunday the service will be held at 11.15 a.m. Bring the children to these services.
A Welcome Awaits You

Baptist Church ACTON
SUNDAY, JULY 15th, 1951
10:30 a.m.—Sunday School
11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.—Rev. V. H. Wentworth, Simcoe, Ont.
Friday, July 13, 1951—B.Y.P.U. at home of Miss Olive Root, Hillsburgh. Cars leave the church at 8 p.m.
Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.—Prayer Meeting

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Phone—Milton 1464

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GRAY COACH LINES
Daylight Saving Time
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Eastbound
5:38 a.m.; 8:59 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.; 11:33 p.m.; 1:12 a.m. (Sun. to Kitchener only)
Daily except Sunday and holidays
Saturday, Sunday and holidays

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

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
Standard Time
Eastbound
Daily 5:55 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 12:08 a.m.; Daily except Sundays 4:43 a.m.; 6:40 p.m.; 7:44 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 5:48 p.m. (flagstop); Saturday only 1:36 p.m.; Sunday only 8:43 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday only Flyer at Geolph. 7:06 p.m.

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