

# EDITORIAL

## Fall Fair Time

The long-of-autumn-is-in-the-air bringing with it the season of fall fairs. Agricultural fairs are as old as recorded history. The first organized one in Canada was held at Windsor, Nova Scotia, in 1765. Since then fairs, predominantly agricultural, have spread westward until now there is an annual exhibition in hundreds of cities, towns and villages. They have made, and continue to make, an immeasurable contribution toward the solidarity and progress of Canada.

Large or small, agricultural fairs are now well established features of community life. Besides providing all the fun of the fair they are an ideal meeting-place for farmers in surrounding areas to gather and get some idea of what other farmers are doing and to find out what is new in agriculture. To the farm boys and girls they are often the culmination of weeks of work when their entries of livestock, grains, and other farm products are judged.

The increasing interest shown in agricultural fairs by the general public has been most marked during the last decade and many of these visitors are genuinely interested in finding out more of Canada's basic industry. They are too, the farmers' customers and the more they can learn of farming and farm problems, the more understanding they will be of the difficulties which farmers often face and the decisions they are called upon to make.

It's Acton Fair on Friday and Saturday of this week. Plan to visit it and meet all your friends and enjoy the last outing before cold weather.

## Just Canadians

We sincerely hope that when our Royal visitors come to Canada next month they will be able to distinguish when they are in Canada and when they go to the United States. We have every neighborly feeling for the United States but the display of American flags in Canada has reached the stage when it is cheap and disgusting. City store decorations display almost as many American flags as the Canadian ensign, apparently in their bending over backward to lure American trade.

We do some occasional travelling south of the border and never have we yet — except at functions where representatives of both countries are meeting — seen a Canadian flag displayed. There may be the occasional one to be seen at border points but 50 miles from the border and even closer Canadian money will not be accepted and most of the folks have never seen a Canadian flag.

Canada is a nation today. It's regrettable that our government has not seen fit to adopt an official flag to inform the world of our national status, but failing such leadership, let's display the flag which we may have and stop the public display of the flags belonging to another country. When the Royal visitors come to Canada they will expect to see things Canadian and when they visit the United States they will see typical American things and Old Glory flown from every flag pole and business place. We don't expect our cousins to display our Canadian ensign and either folks don't expect Canadians to display their flag or show customs that are distinctive of that nation. Let's be Canadians for visitors and Canadians all the time. Let's grow up and display our Nationhood.

## A Greater Disease

More people suffer from diseases that can be listed as chronic alcoholism than from tuberculosis and poliomyelitis combined, according to Gordon Bell, M.D., writing recently in Health, magazine of the Health League of Canada. Furthermore the vast majority of these conditions should be preventable.

"Most of the secondary disorders follow addiction, and secondary addiction particularly is one that usually has a considerable exposure to alcohol before even addiction develops," writes Dr. Bell. "In other words, we have a period for education and for prevention."

For the prevention of other diseases we usually try to remove the cause. Dairy products are carefully guarded and for polio we have all kinds of preventative measures. We do not hesitate to destroy the cause of any disease no matter what the cause, except in this disease of chronic alcoholism. Here the profits seem to be more important than the suffering of mankind and backed by these profits alcohol is made to appear as a harmless drink. But with wider spread of its use, its promotion in every way possible by the liquor interests more and more boys and girls, men and women are being made addicts to a disease that has more victims than tuberculosis and poliomyelitis combined.

We agree with Dr. Bell that a period of education and prevention is necessary to meet this spread of chronic alcoholism. We think in the interests of Canada, new measures should be taken to curtail the sale of alcohol.

## The "Anonymous Citizen"

Newspapers and people in public office have one thing in common—they both receive anonymous letters. People often have things they want to tell others and seek newspaper space through a letter to the editor to do it. This is quite right as long as their comments are not libelous and if they sign their name to their criticisms. Quite often, however, the letter writer feels his comments are too strong and decides not to sign his or her name.

Men who sit on municipal councils occasionally receive anonymous letters criticizing their actions. These men are on council and public boards because of an interest in the town and certainly not for the financial return it might bring. We have little patience with a citizen, if he might be called that, who criticizes and does not have enough of the inner stuff to sign his name.

Councillors, town officials and newspapers are all human and subject to errors and consequently criticisms but not from the "Anonymous citizen" for he lacks the courage to accept explanations or rebuttals. He eliminates the possibility of a complete understanding by refusing to hear the other side of the story.

Newspapers usually stick to the policy of not printing letters from anonymous sources and this paper is strongly behind that policy. But public officials receive the letter, read it and can not talk with the citizen on his problem or criticism.

The "Anonymous Citizen" is detrimental to the town because he may start the attack that dissuades the official from seeking office for another term, thus spoiling the town's chances for the best possible municipal government.

We will continue to print citizen's letters when they sign their name and circumstances permit. But for the "Anonymous Citizen" we have not time. Be prepared to uphold your criticisms when you write to a town official and sign your name. Remember they are all human.

## Not the Korean Dispute

It appears at this time that equalization of county assessment under the so-called new system is a big failure in Halton County. After five years of a county assessor's appointment, the engagement of special assessors in the municipalities in the county, and fulfilment of the manual on the plan, there is disagreement among the municipalities. It was thought this new plan would avoid the appeal court that proved so costly in other years but already an appeal is developing.

Last week the Municipal Board heard argument on the North Halton High School assessment. No decision was given by the Board and Georgetown and Esquesing were asked to reach an agreement. The buck-passing becomes greater and the legal entanglement more confused. It appears quite frequently that all sense of fairness has been lost in the grab-everything spent and horse-trading in paying the fair share toward costs. Law appears more pre-eminent than justice.

From our knowledge of the Esquesing-Georgetown dispute we feel the Township is getting an unfair portion of the costs. Such has been the feeling of the High School Board it appears and Acton, Milton and Nassagaweya are prepared to meet their position under the proposal of the assessors. Yet when the Municipal Board is called in to settle a dispute it's a no-decision affair and advice of go back and fight it out.

Do we still need the courts in England to settle our minor disputes? Have we no authorities in Ontario free from politics who can hand out justice?

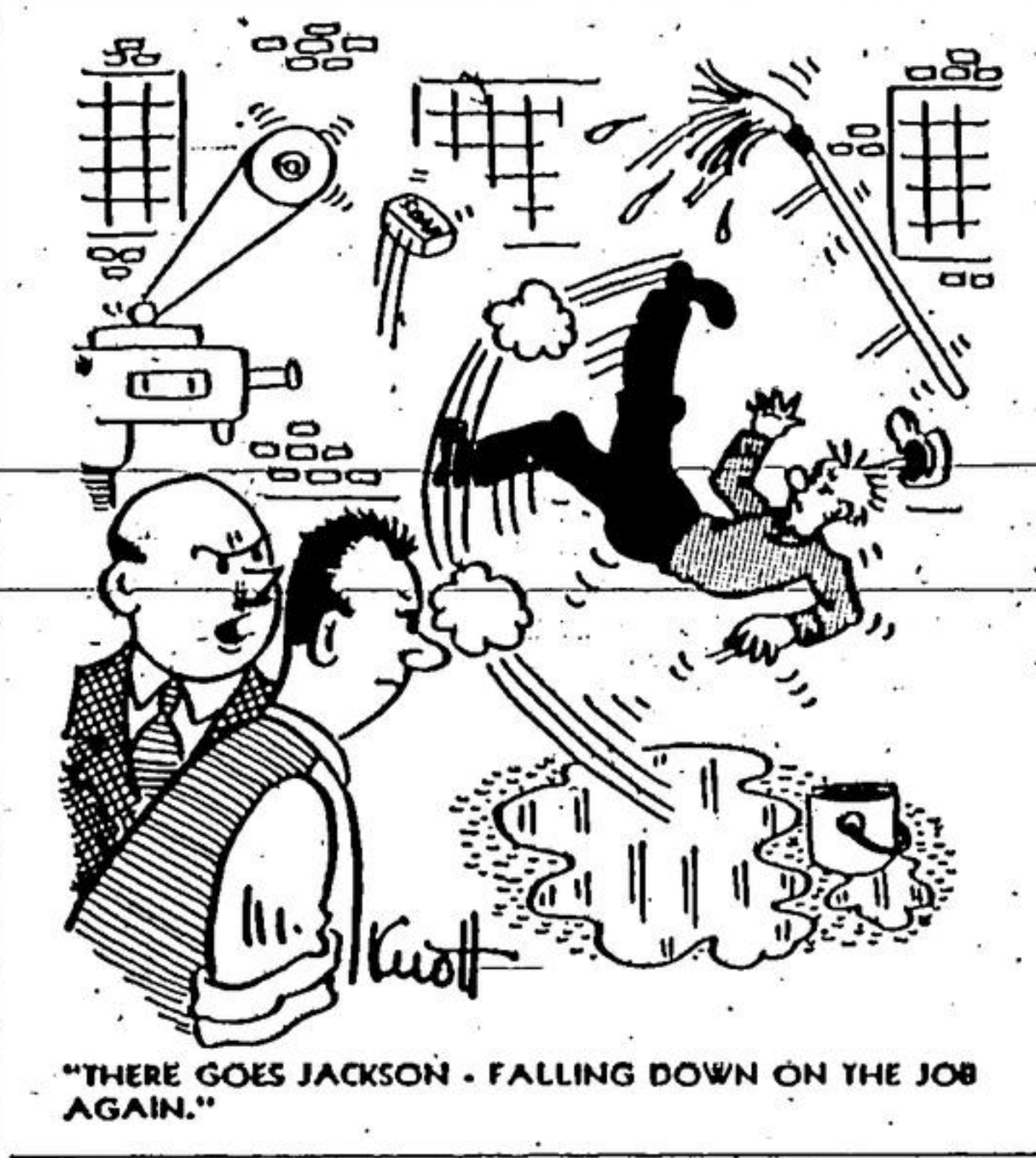
## Editorial Notes

Everyone can contribute to keeping our town clean and tidy. Don't throw wrappers on the street. You wouldn't be so disorderly in your own home.

More Dominion census figures are being published. These figures are not used, however, for municipal purposes but the figures compiled by assessors are used for these needs. Dominion figures are only compiled every ten years.

We'll be glad to meet all our friends at the Free-Press exhibit at the Fall Fair this year. We've arranged to show a group of old pictures of Acton and some interesting items concerning your home paper. The exhibit will be in the Hall on Friday and Saturday.

Are schools and colleges doing enough to promote Canadianism? That question was put by The Financial Post to a selected group of informed Canadians. On the whole the group thought a good job was being done but they urged more stress on the teaching of democratic government, citizenship and history.



**THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER**

### BACK IN 1901

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 19, 1901

The hope which had sprung up and taken strong growth in the breasts of the people that the assassin's bullet had failed its purpose and that president McKinley's life was to be spared that country which revered him proved vain. The end had come! A mighty nation mourns and the whole world bows the head in grief.

One of the daintiest windows in town is the show window of artist's Ramshaw's studio on Mill St. The electric light recently installed renders it an attractive point for passers-by every evening.

A very interesting floral service was held last Friday evening by the Junior League in the Methodist school room. The program had special reference to flowers and was contributed by members of the league, Mrs. A. T. Brown and Miss Clara E. Moore, with brief addresses by Mrs. Josie Oram, H. P. Moore and A. E. Nicklin. Millinery openings are being prepared for.

### BACK IN 1931

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 17, 1931

The warmest September in 35 years, but it is only half gone so far. Mr. J. G. Lindsay has disposed of his grocery business to Mr. J. L. Kingshott.

The members of Bannockburn Women's Institute and friends met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. McCullough to give their daughter, Tillie, a miscellaneous shower prior to her marriage.

When Acton Citizens' Band appeared on Fair Days an item which received much comment was the appearance of the Coat of Arms of Acton on the shell of the drum. This was painted in the proper colors by Mr. J. G. Lindsay, Secretary of the Band.

**NORTH EAST WEST SOUTH**

**NEWS FROM ALL DIRECTIONS**

### K-P In Hall

A hall has been rented \$2,000 for ten months to accommodate Georgetown's kindergarten class overflow. The all-time record number of 71 youngsters enrolled is divided into three classes. Alternative was staggering classes.

### Sword Bearer Came Too

The first citizen of the first city in the world, the Right Honorable the Lord Mayor of London and his lady were the guests of the lieutenant governor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lawson at their Oakville home recently. Sir Denis Lawson, who was made a baronet last summer, is called one of England's most enlightened and progressive businessmen. In his retinue were Lt.-Col. Alderman and Sheriff Clowd Welch, O.B.E., M.C., and sword bearer William T. Boston.

### Guide, Brownie Hall

A new building for the Guides and Brownies was officially opened Sunday in Burlington to end a search for accommodation. High ranking Guide and Brownie officers took part in the service. During the opening, Ontario Provincial Commissioner Mrs. D. Bruce Wilson presented the Gold Cord, the highest award in Girl Guides, to one of the Burlington girls, Sally Duke.

### Come Cost and High Water

Over \$351,000 has been spent so far on a river diversion project in Brampton. At last report, 97,000 cubic yards of clay had been removed to make way for a 2,200 foot channel through the east section of the town. About half the work of preventing those annual spring inundations is completed. The river winds right beneath the business section and main streets of the town.

### 101th Fair

Ontario Livestock Commissioner W. P. Watson opened Georgetown fair last weekend. Fair hall exhibits were outstandingly good at the 101th annual fair. The Girls' Pipe Band, regular attraction at Georgetown affairs, paraded Saturday afternoon. There was a fine crowd.

### Filling Garbage

A columnist who writes for the Oakville-Trafalgar Journal welcomes the idea of land-fill garbage disposal in that township although nearby residents all agree "no". She recalls when she first moved to the township, and garbage had to be systematically sorted. "Paper went into a container to be burned; corn cobs, lettuce, tomato ends and bread crusts were fed to the chickens; meat scraps went to the dogs and cats; carrots to the pony; tin cans were tied in a sack and given to the man who brought the chicken feed." Friends helping with the dishes would upset the whole filing system. Land-fill sounds easier to her.

### Rescues Granny Dies

Last week's Canadian Champion of Milton tells the tragic story of Beverly Smale, of RR2, Milton, who saved her crippled grandmother's life and died herself. Near dawn, the girl woke in a cabin near Smithville and noticed that the gas heater was out. Then said Mrs. Ida Bates, the grandmother, "I heard that awful explosion and saw the sheet of flame. Beverly all in flames went running past me and dived out the window. She got back to the window and helped me out. She kept saying, 'Granny, where's your purse?' The pair had to wait an hour for an ambulance—Beverly burned from head to foot. Nine hours later, she died in St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton.

Membership in trade unions in Canada increased by 23,000 during 1950.

# AT THE Churches

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd, 1951  
11.00 a.m.—Divine Worship.  
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service.  
ALL ARE WELCOME

**St. Alban's Church**  
(Anglican)  
Rector—Rev. W. O. Luxton, M.A.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd, 1951  
Trinity XVIII  
9.00 a.m.—Holy Communion.  
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer, and Beginners Class.  
7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer.  
Harvest Thanksgiving Services, September 30th.  
A Welcome Awaits You

**United Church of Canada**  
Acton, Ontario  
A FRIENDLY CHURCH  
Parsonage—29 Howar Avenue  
Phone 80  
Rev. E. A. Currey, M.A., B.D., Minister

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd, 1951  
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11.30 a.m.—Morning Worship Subject: Casting Stones.  
7.00 p.m.—Evening Worship Subject: Do We Ever Get Away With It?  
These are our best friends in whose presence we are able to be our best selves.

**Baptist Church**  
ACTON

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd, 1951  
11.30 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.—Rev. F. J. Helps, Toronto.  
Wednesday, 8.00—Prayer Meeting  
Friday, 8 p.m.—B.Y.P.U.

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