

EDITORIAL

Need For Urgency

One of the advantages of having elections in early December is that the newly elected members may get into harness early in the New Year. That advantage has, unfortunately, been lost to Acton this year owing to the severe illness of the Mayor-Elect Thomas Salmon. It is one of those incidents over which there is no control by either the electors or the elected.

The nomination date has been set for next Monday, and if an election is necessary to fill the post it will be held on Monday, January 21st. This means that the new mayor will actually hold office only part of the year. The lapse of time is regrettable but apparently unavoidable under the circumstances. We have heard the point discussed on the advisability of a smaller council. However, when the frailties of human beings are considered and the fact that members of council draw no allowances for their services, the argument for a small group has little to commend it.

Council meeting of this week is partly a duplicate of what will have to be re-enacted after a Mayor has been chosen. The year's program will have a month's delay. It is therefore imperative that the election be over as soon as possible and by that we do not suggest an acclamation. But we do urge that once the Mayor is elected there be sessions as soon as possible and the program for 1952 started.

Town business is not by any means at a standstill but there are many important items that require attention and one of these is the securing of industries, which may be on the move. There was much work done on this phase last year that will be lost unless speedy action can be secured from council and its industrial committee which is yet to get organized.

Which Group Are You In?

Personal income in Canada in 1950 reached a new high: \$13,327 million. Here is how it was distributed:

- Employees got \$8,032 million, or 60.3 per cent.
- Farmers and others in business on their own got \$2,875 million, or 21.6 per cent.
- People drawing income from rents and interest netted \$997 million, or 7.5 per cent.
- Shareholders—Canadians owning stocks—got \$245 million in dividends, or 1.8 per cent.
- Members of the armed forces drew \$137 million in military pay and allowances, or 1.0 per cent.
- Income from transfer payments — items like family allowances, old age pensions, veterans' benefits and charitable contributions of corporations—accounted for \$1,041 millions, or 7.8 per cent.

Agriculture Is Important

Municipalities are busily seeking industry that will locate with them for the benefits that any centre can derive from them. But it struck us the other day that all industry is certainly not the type that locates in buildings. Agriculture is one of those industries that is extremely important to any municipality and although geography books always treat it as an industry we commonly forget it.

Yes, agriculture is an industry that is just as complex as the kind that employs great machines and large groups of men. The agriculturist is a combination of chemist, economist, scientist, engineer and a lot of other things. The farmer is often forgotten in the industrial pattern yet he is the most important cog in the industrial wheel of progress and sufficiency.

Often our talk of industrial expansion, especially in those areas suited for agriculture is dangerous because the industry is covering up land and making it non-productive as far as the growth of food is concerned.

Economically agriculture is important as an industry because of the dollars it attracts to the country through export markets. Some industry does the same.

Because you like to eat you are dependent on the farmer and in Ontario only 11 per cent of the people are raising food. Ontario is fast becoming an industrial province and the influx of population will require more food which again makes the agriculture industry an important consideration in any development program that municipalities might consider.

It is said an efficiency expert is a guy smart enough to tell you how to run your business and too smart to start his own.

Transportation problems to and from work mean nothing in the smaller communities. There is still personal independence in the uncrowded parts which lie outside the cities.

The Press and Council

From time to time there is often misunderstanding of the functions of the press in relation to municipal councils. We are often criticized because we don't publish enough and just as often censored because we publish too much. No newspaper minds such criticism as long as the issue is kept free from personalities. An article from the booklet, "The Municipal Council in Ontario" seems worth reprinting at the start of a new year in municipal affairs.

"While it holds no official position in municipal government the press plays an important and useful part in its operation. It is largely through the columns of the newspaper that the citizens obtain their information with respect to what matters are being dealt with by their council and their disposition. In this way, the press serves as a connecting link between the council and its people and serves to protect the electors and taxpayers by keeping councils under close scrutiny.

"While the representatives of the press have no special rights they have the same right of attendance at council meetings and access to public records as other inhabitants of the municipality. Although the representatives of the press may be excluded from committee meetings experience shows in the long run, in most matters, it is better to have the representatives of the newspapers get the correct story first hand than to get a garbled version of the proceedings by indirect means.

"Most newspapers can be relied upon not to publish information which it is clearly not in the public interest to have published. In fairness to the representatives of the press, however, it should be remembered that their business is to get news and not necessarily to print only what the council or a member of council wants to be published.

"There is probably no other agency in a community that can do more to promote or obstruct good municipal government than the local press."

This quotation above is not our words but we subscribe to it in principle and have all down through the years of our newspaper work.

Trophies for Unglamorous

There are so many trophies given for sports these days and we often wonder if our incentive to excel could not be shared in more commonplace little things that provide benefits in other directions. We are not belittling the need for good competition in sports or the awarding of trophies for excellence in playing games.

But what about the fellow who shovels his sidewalk promptly and well after each storm or the citizen who is best at paying his taxes promptly, or the property owner who has the best kept property and surroundings. Truly these are commonplace and not spectacular and are not the centre of the public gaze. They do, however, contribute to the appearance, well-being and comfort of many citizens. You might say they are duties. Many of them are not fun and, in fact, snow shovelling is not advised for folks over a certain age.

But if trophies are good to create a keen interest in play they should have a like effect on the work of community betterment. This winter would have been a good one for competition for the best cleared sidewalk in town. That's just as important as a ski championship or a figure skating award in our Canadian winters. We are just a little bit afraid that if all the emphasis is placed on sporting awards the young folks of today may think sports are all important and the everyday tasks are unnecessary. We may have something to offer for another time that will endeavor to stimulate citizenship competition.

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Editorial Notes

Now back to routine and as one merchant said to us, he would be glad to know when Monday was again.

Adaptation of a popular song would seem applicable to Toronto these days. Street cars on T. C. S. M. there's not one in sight. No doubt some thimster will finish the song.

A sensible suggestion comes from the Children's Aid officials in Calgary, Alta. They think parents of young delinquents committed to reform school should be compelled to pay some of the cost of keeping them there. Since responsibility, in these cases, nearly always rests with the parents, they are the ones who should foot the bill. Sound thinking in these matters seems common in the West. Medicine Hat has just restored curfew. Any child under 16 found on the streets after 10 p.m. without parent or guardian will be taken home by police. Parents of such children can be fined from \$5 to \$15.



THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

Back in 1902

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 9, 1902

The municipal contest here last Monday was confined to the Reeve-ship, and resulted in an overwhelming majority for Reeve John Williams. The defeat of Councillor Jeans was more decisive than generally anticipated. The council of the present is therefore as follows: Reeve, John Williams; Councillors, George Hynds, H. Swackhamer and J. Agnew.

The public school trustees were also elected by acclamation. Messrs. Holmes, Agnew and Worden retired and Rev. J. K. Godden, M.A., Rev. H. A. MacPherson and Mr. W. H. Denny were elected. This gives three entirely new men to the board, with Dr. S. A. McKeague, W. R. Kenney and H. Grindall.

It is now about time the railways were put on the new concrete steps at the town hall. Johnstone and Co. have removed their undertaking and stock of furniture to the Pearson block. This is more central and commodious. It is unfortunate that part of the vaccine used in the vaccination of citizens the past two weeks was of poor quality. All whose vaccination was not effective are being re-vaccinated free of charge.

The isolation tent has a second patient this week, the brother of Mrs. Vance, the first patient. The outside rumours that Acton is full of smallpox and quarantined are absolutely untrue. The merchants tell us there were more farmers in town last Saturday than on the first Saturday after a holiday for a long time.

FEWER AUTOS ?

Motor car production for domestic use is likely to be off anywhere from 10 to 25 per cent in 1952 reports The Financial Post. But much slack is expected to be taken up by increased export and defense orders. General Motors exports, for example, are running at 20 per cent of total output as against nine per cent in 1950. For the Big Three at least, this is expected to mean 1952 production schedules at or near end of 1951 levels. This shapes up to 1952 output of around 350,000 vehicles against 300,000 plus this year, 390,000 in 1950.

Back in 1932

From the Issue of The Free Press of Thursday, January 7th, 1932

The roads have been rather precarious for motor traffic the past week.

When the scholars of the primary department went back to school after the holidays, they were greeted with a new set of seats. A complete new outfit of the latest approved type had been installed during the vacation.

In St. Paul's United Church, Milton, the marriage was solemnized of Flora May, daughter of Inspector J. M. and Mrs. Denyes, of Milton, to William Whittaker King, of Oakville.

The U.F.Y.P.O. held a New Year's frolic in the Parish Hall on New Year's Eve. One of the worst ice storms of years visited this section of the Province on New Year's Day and wrought damage to the telephone, telegraph and hydro lines estimated at \$400,000. In Acton the hydro power went off on Friday morning but was in order during the night again. Some sections of the community were not in repair until Tuesday.

A former resident of Acton passed away on Saturday when John Easton died at his home in Guelph. Mr. Easton was seventy-six years of age. Interment was made in the family plot in Fairview Cemetery, Acton.

MARRIED
BENSON-CARNAHAN — At Knox Manse, Acton, on Wednesday, December 23rd, 1931, by Rev. H. L. Bennie, M.A., Myrtle I. Carnahan to James A. Benson, of Guelph.

DIED
AIRDRIE — At the Guelph General Hospital, on Saturday, January 2nd, 1932, Ethel Mae Dimpick, beloved wife of Robert Airdrie, in her 38th year.

JUST AVERAGE

Recent figures on the prices of butter, compiled in Britain, show that the Canadian price is about average. In Belgium the price is about 82 cents per pound, in France, 75 cents, in the United States, 72 cents. The German price is about the same as in Canada. Of the countries listed, only in Denmark, the Irish Republic and the United Kingdom are the prices lower.

AT THE Churches

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 13th, 1952
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Service of Holy Communion.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Worship. Subject, A Character Study. Thought for the Week: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Cor. 2: 9.

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13th, 1952
Epiphany I
9.00 a.m.—Holy Communion.
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Beginners' Class.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer.
A Welcome Awaits You

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13th, 1952
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School and Bible Class.
11.00 a.m.—Divine Worship.
7.00 p.m.—Divine Worship.
Visitors are Welcome

Baptist Church
ACTON
Douglas B. Shuter, Interim Pastor

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13th, 1952
10.30 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.30 a.m.—"The Exciting Possibility of Faith".
7.00 p.m.—"The Right Way to be Content".

Friday, January 11, 1952 — 4 p.m. Mission Band; 8 p.m. Week of Prayer Service in United Church. Rev. W. H. Moore of the Upper Canada Bible Society — sound film "Frontiersmen".
Tuesday, January 15, 1952 — 8 p.m. Young Women's Mission Circle at home of Mrs. G. Mitchell, 92 Mill St.
Welcome to All

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

MEDICAL

DR. W. G. C. KENNEY
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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAY COACH LINES
—Standard Time
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Eastbound
6:30 a.m., 8:50 a.m., 11:23 a.m., 2:08 p.m., 5:03 p.m., 6:33 p.m., 8:33 p.m., 10:50 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)
a. Daily except Sunday and holidays
b. Saturday, Sunday and holidays

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Standard Time
Eastbound
Daily 6:40 a.m., Daily except Sundays 9:54 a.m., 7:10 p.m., Sunday only 8:16 p.m., Daily except Sunday, Friday at Georgetown 9:02 a.m., Daily at Georgetown, 10:11 p.m.

Westbound
Daily except Sunday and Monday 7:00 a.m., Sunday and Monday only 12:50 a.m., Daily except Sunday 6:48 a.m., 6:40 p.m., flag stop, 7:14 p.m., Daily except Sat. 11 a.m., 6:10 p.m., Saturday only 10:00 a.m., Sunday only 9:41 a.m., 10:00 p.m., Sunday only 9:41 a.m., 10:00 p.m.

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