

EDITORIAL

So Your Taxes Are High!

Now that citizens are over their first shock of the 1952 tax rate the matter might be discussed with some calmness. No one likes taxation of any kind. You will invariably hear all kinds of arguments on its size, the method of arriving at the amount and comparisons of the amount paid by other folks. It's like the weather—we don't like it but there isn't much we can do about it — or is there?

If there is one form of taxation that gets our least objection, it is the municipal levy. The reason is simple. We see the roads; the water service, the educational facilities, the sewers, the garbage collection, the snow clearing and the multitude of services on which our municipal taxes are spent. They are about us every day and on every hand, and we have the privilege of meeting our fellow citizens every day who serve on municipal bodies and on whom we can unburden our troubles.

The multitude of taxes that meet us in every other corner do not have such visible results for the money contributed. You buy a new automobile and pay more taxes on the deal than municipally any year; everything you purchase has an invisible tax included. We don't complain because they aren't shown as separate items and are included as part of the sale price and we can't meet face to face those whose responsibility it is to make the levy.

But in these days of big surpluses in provincial and federal governments the enquiry might well be made of what we are getting for our tax dollars. Municipal taxes are "peanuts" to the amount paid in other fields. We have over the past years accepted them as inevitable, but these days we might well consider their need in view of changing circumstances. A reduction in any field of taxes would undoubtedly mean a lower cost of things which we consider necessary to our standards.

The provincial government has brought down its budget for the year and shortly the Dominion government will make its forecast on financial matters. We are certainly disappointed in the Ontario budget in its help to the municipalities where so much is being done for so little. We entertain little hope from the Dominion budget. But, surely soon the municipalities can hope for a few peanut shells from the tax take to ease the burden.

Bird Sanctuaries

Spring has officially begun even though at times the season seems a little crowded with snowflakes. It's a cheery thought, too, as the warmer days can be expected with all the other pleasant things such as the abandoning of overcoats and hats.

Again or maybe we should say, already, the area is welcoming back the birds that spent the winter south. Speaking of birds brings out two subjects: first, the Jack Miner foundation and second, the building of bird houses.

The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation was incorporated in Canada by a special act of the Ontario Legislature. There are no salaries paid to the directors who all give their time to administer the activities and purpose for which the foundation was created. All the money is used directly for the conservation program begun by Jack Miner and now carried out by his sons at the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary at Kingsville, Ontario.

The late Irwin S. Cobb always referred to Jack Miner as "the greatest practical naturalist on the planet." It is an undisputed fact that Jack Miner secured the first complete facts of where a bird was banded and where it was shot.

There was a time not too long ago when bird house building was quite a hobby and yards were decorated with simple as well as ornate buildings for the birds. But lately there seems to have been a decline in the number of bird houses that are built, perhaps because we are too caught up in the bigger things to think of such simple tasks.

In some towns we have noticed bird house contests that have stimulated a certain degree of interest that is certainly good to hear of. Nothing can be more interesting than a bird house easily seen from a window. The activities of the little birds can keep one watching for some time as they build their nest, hatch their young, and eventually leave for the south.

Inconvenient Conveniences

There is trouble with mail deliveries in the cities and the other day we read a lengthy article giving instructions on the methods to be used to overcome some of these delays. Of course, out in the small towns we don't encounter these inconveniences and possibly walking to the post office saves us more time than we realize. Sometimes the things we consider inconveniences are, after all, the most convenient. Out in the smaller towns if the mail comes into town you get it promptly if you want to help yourself.

We learned recently of a group of cards sent by mail for a meeting in the city which were posted four days before the meeting and reached the addressees the day after the meeting. We often get word from our subscribers that the home paper which is mailed here every Thursday night reaches our subscribers on Tuesday and some times on Wednesday of the following week. The fault must be largely in the city delivery because everyone knows that The Free Press is available at the local post office late Thursday afternoons. Sometimes so-called inconveniences that we do not enjoy in the small towns are really conveniences.

On the "Home" Front

Things on the "home" front aren't the most favourable it seems. In the annual report of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, tabled in the House of Commons, it is revealed that the average Canadian worker can no longer afford to build his own home.

The report states that allowing 23 per cent. of the gross income for shelter the would-be home owner in 1950 required \$2,700 a year in order to build the simplest type house. By the end of 1951 he required \$3,300 a year. But the average industrial worker does not make anything close to this. His average earnings at the beginning of 1952 were \$2,624 a year.

In the prediction of a big construction and equipment boom in 1952 a report offers, "Housing is the one dark spot in this rosy picture of 1952. Outlays for new housing construction are expected to decline by about 10 per cent. in terms of dollars below the 1951 figure."

Housing indeed seems to be the dark side of a rosy picture when you take into consideration the fact that construction workers may easily become unemployed because no one can afford to use their services, and materials are out of the price bounds too.

If wage demands in all fields keep on the upward trend, the prohibitive price of articles will reach into fields other than construction, too.

Clean-up Time

Spring brings to mind something under the heading of spring cleaning that many housewives will start thinking about soon, but this year it can well be expanded to the whole town with a cleaning up after streets were put in fair shape last year.

The upheaval of sewers with an unearthing of ground that left our town in perhaps the dirtiest state in its history is over. True, the restoration of the streets and improvements of them is still a municipal job but if we are going to have some attractive streets the yards of each house should be cleaned up to contribute to a pleasant appearance.

Of course, there'll be need for some painting and other improvements that will add to the appearance of the town and the impression it creates for the passing motorist.

Editorial Notes

American money is still accepted at par in most parts these days but no one is paying a premium any more.

There's a radio broadcast designated as "Postmark U.K." Perhaps this week's comment of the editorial column should be postmarked Toronto (for reasons beyond our control).

With some prices on the downgrade we hear of the building of "floor" prices. That will be fine if the floor is substantial enough to carry the load for everything we produce and not just a select few.



"You're washing WHAT seat covers?"



Tax and Howl

"Go sit on a tax," was the order for councils throughout the district recently. If their lengthy sitting could have lowered the tax rates any, councils would have been as happy as other taxpayers. Georgetown's rate remained the same as last year—43. Guelph's is 71 mills. Acton council's news was 63 and Milton's 56.

Cheer up — Cockney (hearing an owl Who-o-o) What's that? Canadian: It's an owl. Cockney: Hi know hi's an 'owl, but what is it that's 'owling?

Halton Prime Target
Noticed last week in a daily paper that we're leading in civil defense. "We" being Halton county! Actually most of the credit for the county's new commendation goes south. Of course, for all the county, there are the recent arrangements for co-operation between fire brigades and police forces.

Just lately NEWS reported the suggestion that the Oakville council buy a water monitor — a warn of radioactivity in lake water—and evidently the council has carried out the suggestion. In Oakville, too, air raid wardens are appointed and medical supplies are ordered. Emergency treatment centres are designated—and all county doctors will be available for service.

The progressive industrialization of the south Nelson and Trafalgar is resulting in the realization that the southern part of Halton is a prime military target.

Oldsters Lucky
Young people should evidently lend a bit of an ear to the next oldster who starts telling about the "good old days." An article in the Milton Canadian Champion last week doesn't prove the old days were better days, but that those who are still around to tell about them are lucky.

The death column of a Toronto newspaper of 1878 listed the following ages of those whose death was announced that day: 20, six months, 75, 4, 2, 54, 7, 6, one month, 80, 3, 9, 6; five weeks, 24, 17, 22, 72 and 25. Out of 19 who died, only three were over 70.

There were four deaths in the Milton paper last week—ages listed 68, 58, 87 and 89.

Yankee Backslap
Almost as passively friendly as the fabled Yankee backslapper is this column, which appropriates any Halton resident for the readers of all corners of the county... two more of our neighbors, more or less were in the news this week. Oakville's Joan Fairfax has been summoned to the States by Arthur Godfrey to appear with him on TV there.

Another from our midst was featured in MacLean's magazine last week in an article on the Toronto Daily Star — Charles Hindmarsh whose head bumps the top of the executive of that paper. Mr. Hindmarsh is another who commutes to Toronto from the south of Halton.

Round Trip
There's lots going on in Oakville, according to the Oakville Trafalgar Journal, but one piece of news in the paper that is guaranteed to interest half the married people in the world at least is worth repeating. "Statistics show," says one columnist, "that the average housewife walks 13 miles daily doing her chores. A nice stroll but the scenery's monotonous."

Following the massacre of General Custer and his cavalry, Chief Sitting Bull and his Sioux warriors spent six years in refuge in Canada.

AT THE Churches
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Acton, Ontario.
A FRIENDLY CHURCH
Rev. E. A. Currey, B.A., B.D., Minister.
Parsonage—29 Bower Avenue
Phone 60
Miss O. M. Lampard, A.T.O.M., Organist and Choir Leader

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG, M.A., B.D., Minister
Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m.—Preparatory Service.
SUNDAY, APRIL 6th, 1952
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Communion Service.
12.15 p.m.—Bible Class.
7.00 p.m.—Divine Worship
"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength"
A Warm Welcome Awaits You

BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON
Douglas B. Shuter, Pastor
SUNDAY, APRIL 6th, 1952
10.30 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.30 a.m.—"Death Be My Destiny"
7.00 p.m.—"When Men Become a Mob."
8.15 p.m.—B.Y.P.U.
Thursday—"Church Night" cancelled this week.
Friday—4 p.m. Mission Band; p.m. Jr. High Fellowship.

ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH (Anglican)
Supply Minister Archdeacon Mackintosh of Hamilton
SUNDAY, APRIL 6th, 1952
Palm Sunday
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Holy Communion and Beginners' Class.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer.
Good Friday, April 11—Service at 10.00 a.m.
A Welcome Awaits You

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

Back in 1902

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 3, 1902.

The Board of Education took an important step at the meeting on Monday evening in adopting the principal of weekly report cards.

Cecil Rhodes died at Capetown on Thursday after a prolonged illness. The Daily Mail says that the bulk of his fortune has been left to the promotion of his vast Imperial scheme of Education. The details of this plan will be made public in a few days.

Mr. M. Crewson of Crewson's Corners was the first to do any spring seeding in this vicinity. He sowed a field of oats on March 20th.

R. B. Scott of Cookstown has purchased the stock of John White and son in the Warren block and stocktaking is now in progress.

The Bell Telephone Co. have during the last week installed a new system for Beardmore and Co. and the Acton Tanning Co. in connection with their private line to Toronto and their local phones. New metallic wiring has been put in.

The Acton Tanning Co. has had the latest improved time recorder installed in their works here. The system is very ingenious. It records automatically on the ticket check of each employee, when inserted in the recorder, the exact time at which the employee enters and leaves the works.

The death last week of Mr. John Burns of Toronto severed one of the links connecting the present with Acton's early history. It was Mr. Burns Sr. who took the first steps toward the organization of the Presbyterian congregation here in the winter of 1845.

Back in 1932

From the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, March 31st, 1932

Baseball practice has started in the park. Quite a record for March.

The shoe factory and glove factory hockey teams played a game last Thursday at the arena, which resulted in a 6-5 victory for the shoemakers over the glove makers. There were some rough periods in the affair.

Quite a number from Campbellville village had a sleighing party to the home of Mr. Robert Inglis last Tuesday evening where they had a very enjoyable time.

Mr. James Dobie, who has been an operator at the local C.N.R. station for the past twelve years has been transferred to Kitchener. Friends regret the removal of Mr. and Mrs. Dobie and Master James from Acton.

A very pretty wedding was quietly solemnized on Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Maxon when their only daughter, Eleanor was united in marriage to William Ramsden, second son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ramsden, Acton.

The beautiful shade trees about town are gradually diminishing and no effort is made for replacement by those who so ruthlessly remove these monarchs that have taken years to develop.

MARRIED
MCKAY-COLE—At Knox Manse, Acton, on Wednesday, March 30, 1932, by Rev. H. L. Bennie, M.A., Agnes J. Cole, daughter of William Cole and the late Mrs. Cole, of Acton to Alexander McKay, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Donald McKay, of Georgetown.

Only 1/4th of the land area of the Dominion has been improved by man or used as pasture.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

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<p>MINCELANEOUS</p> <p>THE VICTOR B. RUMLEY FUNERAL HOME Funeral Home, Heated Ambulance Phone 30 night or day Serving the community for 45 years</p>	<p>CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS</p> <p>Standard Time Eastbound Daily 6.40 a.m.; Daily except Sunday 8.45 a.m.; 7.10 p.m.; Sunday only 8.18 p.m.; Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 9.02 a.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown, 10.11 p.m.</p> <p>Westbound Daily except Sunday and Monday 2.04 a.m.; Sunday and Monday only 12.38 a.m.; daily except Sunday 8.48 a.m.; (6.50 p.m. flag stop); 7.44 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 8.10 p.m.; Saturday only 2.36 p.m.; Sunday only 8.43 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday only Flyer at Guelph, 7.05 p.m.</p>

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G. A. Dills, Editor and Publisher
BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICE TELEPHONE 174

The buds of Canada's balsam poplar are sticky and produce a wax used by wild bees to seal cracks in their hives.