

EDITORIAL

The Biggest Bite

We were at a meeting recently when the subject of increasing local taxes came in for discussion and one man said, "My taxes have increased \$25 this year." We came back home and made a comparison of our taxes of the past two years and found we could claim a better increase than our friend.

But we picked up an item on our week-end reading and found that someone had computed the tax on one of the automobiles in the low price (?) field and before the last budget had, lopped off \$140 of the tax, buyers of cars were contributing in total taxes on the purchase price of a car, not less than \$750. We recalled that back in 1934 the same make of car was purchased for \$875, which included everything that went with cars of that period.

We simply pass this on because in our reasoning the complaint about high taxation is not due in the municipal field but in the provincial and federal taxation. The taxes on everything used in everyday life are so invisible that we do not realize what they contribute to the cost of living.

We don't want municipal taxes or municipal spending to be increased but we do think the average pocketbook is more pinched by taxation in fields other than municipal and we have on several occasions pointed out the things municipal taxation provides.

The Wrong Trend?

At the beginning of the century 60% of the population of Canada lived on farms and 40% in the towns and cities. When the final figures are completed for the latest census it will likely be found that those proportions are now reversed. In another ten years, if the present trend continues, less than a third of Canadians will be living on the land.

Even if we could produce enough with only a fraction of our population on the land there would be grave disadvantages, declares the Financial Post. It is not a good thing for any nation to have all its people packed into cities and certainly not safe in these uncertain times.

It will pay us to watch carefully the movement of population from the country. Some of it is natural and inevitable. Some of it may be actually beneficial. But we would be short-sighted if we pretended that it did not matter; that it could go on indefinitely without sapping our national strength.

Community Centres

Many of us can recall when a township hall was a place for councils and municipal officials to meet and where ratepayers assembled once a year, in rather crowded quarters, at the time of municipal elections. Township halls have come to mean some very fine new buildings in this county of recent years, and have become an assembly place frequently used many nights of the year. They have largely become community centres for rural and urban citizens. All will agree they are performing an important part in the social life of our communities.

In the modern school buildings of the towns today an important part of the plans calls for a gymnasium. Many times this part of the building is really not a gymnasium but is more often used as an auditorium not only for the assembly of school children but for the meeting place in the evenings for adult groups for social and cultural activities.

During the past months we have had an opportunity to see many of these so-called gymnasiums. In every case they are more frequently used by the whole community than they are for gymnastics of the school children. True, there is some gymnastic equipment in them but in every case we have seen, the emphasis is on the auditorium equipment and its adaptability for assembly of community groups. In many places it is filling the need of the old town halls which have become inadequate in the towns.

Just as our thinking has been altered in regard to township halls, so it is necessary to alter our conception of the so-called gymnasiums included in present day school buildings. They should be regarded as community centres and emphasis placed on their use as an auditorium for all age groups rather than the other use given to them for school gymnastics.

Officially Ended

Rather interesting to note in the news this week that the war with Japan was officially closed. There has always been trouble in getting this job done officially. Most of us can remember that back in 1945 when the cease fire order was given the official announcement was withheld for all one day while the world waited in suspense for the officials to get together and all speak at once. Presuming that official announcement has now been made, the next step will be for the resumption of trade relations with the rest of the world.

Already Japanese products have been appearing on the market in Canada and resumption of trade with many of these nations with whom we have been at war will mean a change in conditions at home. All during the war these nations were not producing materials and we on this continent had a sharing of the markets which were out of production and also supplying an accelerated demand to the home market. Getting into that position necessitated many changes and getting out will undoubtedly see just as many changes in the reverse.

It is to be hoped that our peacetime practices in the world of trade will not take us again into conflict with other nations of the world. Tolerance will be required on both sides if another world war is to be avoided. It's not just a matter that statesmen alone can settle. It is a striving for peace that must be sought by people of all lands. Definitely, peace is worth the tolerance required.

Another Phase

The farmers know it and most everyone else is coming to a realization that prices are definitely lower. The cost of living index has dropped two months in a row and will likely dip further. Commodity prices—the retail price governor—has been dropping steadily, averaging anywhere from 5% to 70% lower.

Many businesses that had been operating full blast the year round are back to the old seasonal basis. Business generally seems to be beginning to follow the traditional seasonal ups and downs. While employment is up and going higher, the market favors the buyer instead of the seller in many lines. Cost-of-living escalator clauses in wage contracts are down for the first time since they became popular.

In view of the fact that for years every decimal point in the cost of living was much publicized, we think it is only the right thing that this other trend should be brought to public attention. It isn't quite as much fun to come to a realization of this downward trend as it is to be constantly soaring upward. But just as we all like to share when prices are on the climb, so we must be prepared to participate in the other direction. Government taxation will undoubtedly share in the change and the surplus Mr. Abbott anticipated for this year may well not be as large as anticipated when next budget time rolls around. When incomes are reduced, the tax take is bound to be much lighter. It is, perhaps, not the picture we like to look at but indications are that many changes are due in the months ahead.

Editorial Notes

Still need for more caution in the spring fires and keeping them under control.

Daylight Saving has brought its longer evenings and more time for play and spring gardening.

It could be that some of the men who are being sought these days may be found on the banks of a stream just fishing.

From several communities come reports of rather expensive repairs to chimneys by a group of strangers. Once again we suggest in these days to deal with the tradesmen you know and watch out for the travelling specialists.

Henry George and his theories are not now as well known as they were to an earlier generation. But it might be well to remember one word of his from his work on "Social Problems": "The ideal social state is not that in which each gets an equal amount of wealth, but in which each gets in proportion to his contribution to the general stock."

Grim Summer Harvest



"Fire! Spring fire fever has gone together as an increased number of fire calls have been reported all over Halton. There was a grass fire in Milton recently and another inside a Trafalgar hollow tree... housecleaning in Acton resulted in a naphtha gas explosion and fire, and a farmer busy spring ploughing found his tractor on fire beneath him in another Acton explosion... Trafalgar township reported that not in years have the Trafalgar, Oakville, and Bronte brigades been called to fight so many fires."

And this NEWSpaper scanner dashed to a fire in Toronto last week-end at the sight of dozens of firemen and three trucks, red lights flashing. We found only two spectators there, one outside."

"We get about 25 calls a day," one fireman explained, jumping against his \$35,000 truck. We didn't mention a couple of calls constituted an extremely busy week where we came from!"

Worms make dandy pets, the members of Milton's Horticultural Society learned at their last meeting. A retired lake skipper explained to the group that these friendly worms don't wander away, will eat almost anything, and are clean and quiet.

And what's more, they aerate the soil, enrich it and increase its water absorbing quality. Quite solid citizens, all concerned. Just the same, don't quite see them curled on the softest cushion, and jumping down at a sharp cry of " Rover! " or " Fluffy! " or " Laddie! "

Soccer "An attempt is being made to revive the grand old game of soccer football in Bronte," according to the Oakville-Trafalgar Journal. One of

the soccer enthusiasts informed that paper that "there are quite a number of new Canadians here who are interested in soccer. We have a number of Dutch, Poles, Ukrainians and Czechs as well as Irishmen and Englishmen. One of these, John Kelly, played on the senior Irish soccer team."

Pride Before Fall The Georgetown Herald's weekly weatherman most wet-blanketedly states last week, "we may have a snow storm yet!"

"Surely the weatherman can hold his head up with this week's summary," he wrote. In six days out of seven the temperature was well above the normal average of 51 degrees for the damp month of April. As far as the Halton predictor is concerned, that weatherman's pride might be followed by a fall a fall of snow.

Two Tragic Accidents Involves Georgetown residents just recently. Mary Seymore, a 15-year old girl who bumped her head, was rushed to the hospital for a brain operation, and died as a result of the apparently inconsequential knock. She lived in Georgetown until her family moved to Toronto.

One of seven airman pilots died after a military crash of two R.C.N. planes off Nova Scotia. The pilot John H. Mason, who used to live on a farm near that town.

Russian Easter The Russian Easter, the greatest religious feast of the year in pre-revolutionary Russia, was celebrated in Oakville on April 20 about 20 people, most of them Russian expatriates, gathered to observe the day. Among them was the Grand Duchess Olga, sister of the Czar Nicholas, with her two sons and their wives. The Grand Duchess just recently moved from Campbellville.

CHURCHES AT THE Churches

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

SUNDAY, MAY 4th, 1952
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School. Definitely helpful in character development.
11:00 a.m.—Morning worship. The Enlarged Life. Sermon: The Law of Gain.
7:00 p.m.—Evening worship. Interesting Biblical fact number 2. Meditation: "That Depends on You."

Thought for the Week
"What is liberty without wisdom and without virtue? Such liberty is the greatest of all possible evils, for it is a vice and folly and madness, without tuition and restraint."
Edmund Burke

ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH (Anglican)
Rev. Ralph E. Price, B.A., B.D.

SUNDAY, MAY 4th, 1952
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Holy Communion and Beginners' Class.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer. A Welcome Awaits You

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
KNOX CHURCH ACTON
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG, M.A., B.D., Minister

SUNDAY, MAY 4th, 1952
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship.
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, MAY 4th, 1952
10:30 a.m.—Sunday School and Bible Class.
11:30 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship. Communion following the morning worship.
8:15 p.m.—B.Y.P.U.
Thursday "Church Night": 8:30-9:00. Prayer meeting: 9:00-9:30. Study of Romans.
Friday—4 p.m. Mission Band; 7:30 p.m. Junior High Fellowship.
Tuesday, May 6—Guelph Association Mission Circle rally, afternoon and evening sessions.



THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

Back in 1902

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 1st, 1902

From the time of passing of the first list of accounts for expenses in connection with the smallpox outbreak here last winter, there has been a constant demand for the publication of an itemized statement. Quarantine police service (to John B. Chisholm, William Gibbons, Rufus Worden, Thomas O'Brien, Joseph Boyd, Stephen Hornby, Oliver H. Cook, Sidney Oram, Samuel Kee, William Mason) \$117.95; medical attendance, medicine, nursing, etc. (to Dr. C. A. A. Warren, Dr. S. A. McKenney, Chandler and Massey, Sidney J. Oram, William Erskine, A. T. Brown) \$670.00; whiskey, ale, etc., \$9.50; compulsory vaccination, \$132.09; isolation hospital and outbuildings (to Peterboro Tent Co., James Brown, John M. Warren, Alex. Ramshaw, Charles Lashby, Warner Nicklin, Edward Matthews, R. D. Graham, H. Grindell, Dr. C. A. A. Warren) \$310.40; hospital furnishings, \$112.22; provisions for hospital (to Mrs. Anna I. Maddock, L. B. Nelson and Co., Mrs. John Warren, Mrs. T. T. Moore, E. Holston, T. Statham and Son, Henderson and Co., John H. Matthews) \$211.50; clothing for patients, \$3.40; telephone account, \$11.30; wood and coal (to J. C. Hill, James Brown) \$31.68; bills presented but not yet passed (for board of quarantined friend, cooking at hospital, carrying water, towels, safety pins, soap, cakes and tart shells, oranges and oysters, boned turkey, pickles and catsup). Total of all above, \$1680.12.

The Conservative Association met in convention at Milton on Tuesday. The only name presented for nomination was that of Dr. Nixon, reeve of Georgetown. Yesterday afternoon the Liberals of the county met in convention in Milton. The only name proposed was that of John R. Barber, Esq.

For several months Mr. R. F. Nelson has had workmen engaged in converting the premises next to the Trader's Bank into a modern and most attractively equipped merchant tailoring and gents' furnishing establishment. Mr. Nelson

Back in 1932

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 28th, 1932

The race for the first potatoes of the year is now on.

It can be recorded that a snow storm laid a white blanket on April 27 of this year.

The Township of Erin 58th Annual Spring Horse Show was held at Hillsboro on April 20th. The day was beautiful and warm for the time of year.

The community of Limehouse was saddened by the very sudden illness and passing away of Miss Mary Lindsay. The late Miss Lindsay was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Lindsay and the last member of the well-known and esteemed family.

The Musical Festival preparations are uppermost in the thoughts of the Public School pupils these days. The event will be held in Milton next week. Acton Schools, under the direction of Mrs. M. R. Moore, will have entries in many of the classes.

The members of Acton Citizens' Band were entertained at the home of the President, George Bishop at a social function.

BORN
FORBES—In Highland Park General Hospital, on Wednesday April 20, 1932, to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd D. Forbes, Detroit, Mich., the gift of a son.

has now one of the finest clothing houses in the Dominion. The merrier month of May. The well known farm "Gordon Hall", lot 25, Con. 5, Esquering, a couple of miles east of Acton, has been purchased by Messrs. A. and J. Mann. It is a fine property of 100 acres, well watered and has one of the most commodious and modern barns in the province. The Messrs. Mann paid about \$7,000 for this fine property.

Naturalists say lichens, growing on rocks across Canada, may be the oldest living things on earth. Their annual growth is microscopic.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

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Corner of Willow and River St.
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Doctor of Chiropractic
—15 Frederick St. N.
Acton
PHONE 550

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE
GRAY COACH LINES
Daylight Spring Time
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Eastbound
6:38 a.m., 8:58 a.m., 11:23 a.m., 2:08 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:33 p.m., 8:32 p.m., 9:58 p.m.
Westbound
10:27 a.m., 12:52 p.m., 2:57 p.m., 5:27 p.m., 7:27 p.m., 9:12 p.m., 11:42 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 5:40 a.m.; Daily except Sundays 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, 2:24 a.m.; Sunday and Monday only, 12:08 a.m.; daily except Sunday, 8:48 a.m., 7:44 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun., 5:48 p.m.; Saturday only 1:36 p.m.; Sunday only 8:43 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday only Flyer at Guelph, 7:03 p.m.

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Mill St. Residence of
A. T. BROWN

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