

EDITORIAL

Citizens' Night

Tomorrow night, Friday, November 26th is Citizens' Night—perhaps more commonly known as Nomination Night. It's a time when all residents of town are asked to get together and discuss the municipal work of the past year and plan for the year ahead.

It's a mighty important night in our town. The town hall ought to have a capacity crowd, but too often in the past the meeting of the year is only attended by a few citizens. Too many folks like to get their municipal news and give voice to their views here and there and most anywhere but at this citizens' meeting.

Then we suppose there are many who will not attend lest they be asked to share in citizenship duties. We have on other occasions stressed the need for the interest of every citizen in the affairs of our town. We cannot repeat it too often. If Acton isn't the kind of town you would like to be your help in making it better will always be welcomed. Incidentally a term in any public office is the greatest step in understanding municipal affairs.

We have talked to many men who have served in municipal work. All will readily admit it was a bit strenuous but we have yet to meet the man who is not glad of the broad experience and understanding he has gained from municipal association. Let's show some interest in our town by attending the meeting tomorrow night. Let's make sure that all the municipal offices are filled with one nomination meeting.

Just Around the Corner

A month from today will be Christmas Day. If you want to consult your calendar you will find there are only 24 more shopping days. With the friendships formed in these days of more rapid travel, it is taken for granted that Christmas shopping and planning must be done early. The shop windows and the stocks of merchants are now going on display.

It's many a year since the Christmas shopping was crowded into the last week before Christmas. Some of us can recall when much of it was done in the two or three days before the big event and yes, even after supper on Christmas eve. It was hectic and has been proven unnecessary.

Those who make surveys of shopping trends and such things predict there will be a big trade this season. With a view to helping you with suggestions and bringing to your attention what you can secure right here in Acton we will next week publish a special shopping edition of The Free Press. We think you will find it very interesting and proof that your Christmas buying can best be done at home.

Closest But Neglected

Local or municipal government is "closest to the people," says The Financial Post. It furnishes our primary protection in police, fire and sanitation forces. It provides us with streets, water and sewers. It looks after much of our education. It furnishes the finest possible training grounds for the country's public servants. And yet in spite of its paramount importance in our daily lives, interest in local government is at a dangerously low ebb in most of Canada and especially in the urban centres where we are most dependent on its services.

The Citizens Research Institute has just completed a survey of the voting turnout in municipal elections in Canada. The results are alarming. For all Canada a good deal less than half of those eligible voted for the chief elective office and for some of the larger centres including Montreal and Toronto only one in three exercised their franchise. That indicates slim general interest indeed in a type of government which in 1953 spent over \$800 millions on current account alone on behalf of the inhabitants.

Among new services to be provided when the Canadian National Railways' branch line to Kitimat is completed will be operation of railway cars to carry automobiles to and from the highway system at Terrace Kitimat (B.C.) Northern

Our Own Responsibilities

The assertion that the amount collected by the federal government through sales and excise tax on new cars exceeds the amount paid out by the automotive industry in wages and taxes was to say the least, rather startling. With production of new cars in some factories stopped and with a surplus of cars on the used car lots on which no further taxes will be collected, we can readily see why a deficit is forecast in the federal budget.

Added to this is the fact that no tax deductions can be made on those who are not working either through strikes or a lack of jobs and the federal income is quickly deflated. There is no dodging the fact that governments at any level can only spend the funds that are collected from productive effort.

It's a common tendency for folks who find conditions not as they have been to place the blame on some level of government. Of course, it is also common for each level of government to place the responsibility on another higher level. But after all aren't we all passing the buck? Aren't governments the kind of ones we elected? Are not union leaders doing the things that the workers wanted?

But somewhere along the line our seeking for shorter hours, more pay and less production isn't working out the way it did when other countries were out of production. We are back in a world competitive market. Other countries have materials to sell us. The methods that have served in the past years are going to be changed. We may not like it, but perhaps we will have to come to a different definition of essentials of every day living and blaming the other fellow for our dilemma is not the cure.

The Pioneering Rails

Canada's railways, now as ever, are pioneering new frontiers. Despite declining revenues and outmoded regulation of their rate structure hampering their competitive position, Canada's railways are now building or have recently completed more than 1,000 miles of new track—most of it to serve resources and industrial development in the north.

When rail-building projects presently under way are completed, Canada will be served by more than 44,000 miles of line, owned by 24 different railroads. Apart from the dramatic push into the wilderness of the Quebec, North Shore and Labrador Line to connect Seven Islands on the St. Lawrence with the rich ore deposits of Quebec's hinterland, most of the rail construction is being done by the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National.

C.P.R. and C.N.R. rail-building projects range across the country from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. So much construction activity in the rail industry is compelling evidence that the rails, far from stagnating, are a living force indispensable to the development and expansion of the Canadian economy.

Holiday Significance

In our perusal of exchanges we noted that in communities where Remembrance Day was proclaimed a public holiday there was a diminished attendance at the services. Schools were closed in the province and we wonder just how many children knew the reason. The significance of many of our holidays has been forgotten until there is little difference between Victoria Day and Christmas Day.

Read a story during the week of a family a few years out from Europe. The mother had taken one of the children to meet Santa Claus who had patted him on the head. The little lad was confused with the customs here and in his former home where the emphasis of Christmas was upon Jesus. The little lad cried in ecstasy, "I'm blessed, I'll never wash my hair again. He blessed me."

Even our conception of Christmas has often a greater emphasis on Santa Claus than on the birth of Christ. It's another holiday and a day of feasting.



NEAST SOUTH NORTH WEST

More in the Stew

In Oakville "something new" was added to the Post Office-Library-Federal Building "stew" recently when Trafalgar township wired the Minister of Public Works that he consider locating the much-discussed proposed federal building "more in the centre of the developing area" which means apparently in Trafalgar township somewhere between the Sixth and Eighth Lines above the Queen Elizabeth Way.

Battles in Bronte

In Bronte a battle is shaping up for every public office except the reeveship as seven men are contesting for the four council seats and four men are vying for the Public Utilities Commissioner, including the former Reeve. Two, including one woman, have hats in the ring for School Board Chairman. More than 70 turned out for Bronte's biggest nomination meeting.

Not to Lose Homes

In Oakville, as the Ford labor tie-up goes into its second month, union voices declared that no striker would lose his home as a result of inability to make CMHC payments in Oakville or Bronte. The pronouncement came along with an observation from a CMHC official that the workers-now-strikers were no more tardy in meeting payments now than many of them had been before the strike.

Schools Filled Up

In Bronte, where population has been on the upswing during the past few years, announcement was made last week that the public school would be accommodating any township pupils next year for want of more room. There are 294 pre-school age children in the village and 53 toddlers ready for kindergarten next year, it was noted.

Modern Machines in Erin

In Erin, the local paper ponders, "modern machines are a revelation to those of us who lived in the past, when most labor was done the hard way." This consideration is explained when the writer goes on to tell of the speed and efficiency with which the village's new water mains are being bedded down over the streets.

Still Looking Around

In Georgetown, still enthusiastic about the landfill method of garbage disposal, members of council have taken to viewing the virtues of another make of machine on film. One is slated to see yet another one, of smaller type, in operation, and altogether reaffirmed their conviction that the machine should be purchased for garbage use only, in view of the problem being so pressing.

Thumbs Down for Water

In Burlington "certain defeat" would be the fate of a proposal if put to vote on construction of water main extensions and a new auxiliary pumping unit for the town, the local paper emphasizes, noting the proposal has been temporarily shelved and added investigations have been entered into regarding the legislative power of the "water board."

Plastics Firm Grows

In Georgetown it was reported that Plastonics Ltd., a small plastics products firm formerly located in Acton, is planning an addition to the company's new quarters in Norval where the firm is now operating in a building behind the old mill. Three Acton men and one Georgetown man are employees of the company.

Milton Annexation

In Milton, at the latest session of council, instructions were issued to begin legal preliminaries for the further annexation of land from Trafalgar township. The area proposed to be taken in, about 100 acres, would include the tentative site of the Canadian Meter Co.'s new plant and would stretch the town boundary to the No. 10 side-road.

No Labor Troubles

In Milton all's quiet on the labor front, as it was reported last week that "expressions of complete satisfaction were voiced by company and union officials following announcement of the completion of negotiations on a new bargaining contract at the P. L. Robertson Manufacturing Co."

Festival Honors For Sheila Paul

In a class with 16 competitors, Miss Sheila Paul of Acton placed first at the Guelph Kiwanis Music Festival on Friday. The young violinist was awarded 86 marks in the class for 16 year olds and under. She placed second in the class for 19 year-olds and under, with 90 points.

CARS

Cars are different now. Everything is chrome and shiny paint. A car used to be as close and known and troublesome and dear as a wife. Now we drive about in strangers. It's more comfortable, sure, but something has been lost. I hope I never get it back—John Steinbeck, in Reader's Digest

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.C.M.
Organist and Choir Leader
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26th, 1934**
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School To show the way
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Topic: "Where is the Lamb"
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship. Pictures. Hymn singing.
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
"A good man, out of the treasure of his heart, brings forth that which is good; and an evil man, out of the treasure of his heart, brings forth that which is evil; for of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Luke 7: 45
- ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH**
(Anglican)
Rev. Evan H. Jones, B.A., L.Th.
Rector
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26th, 1934**
First Sunday in Advent
8:00 a.m.—Corporate Communion and breakfast for all men and boys of the Parish.
10:00 a.m.—Church School
11:00 a.m.—Beginners' Class
11:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer and Sermon.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Sermon.
- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG
M.A., B.D., Minister
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26th, 1934**
9:45 a.m.—Church School
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.
A Warm Welcome Awaits You
"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."
- BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON**
Ray H. Coster, Pastor
Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave
Phone 206
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26th, 1934**
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship.
Wednesday—4:00. Mission Band; 8:00. Prayer meeting.
Friday—8 p.m. B.Y.P.U.
- FINALLY FIXED**
Bridgeport, Ont. (CP)—Hector Wickens tried for 10 years to get town council to install a drain in front of his house. This year he ran for council and was elected. The drain was put in the job taking workmen only a few minutes.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1904

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 22, 1934
For more than forty years the workers of the Sunday schools of Halton county have been meeting in annual convention. The honor of being hosts comes to Acton in this year of grace, 1904. Our citizens will cordially welcome the delegates to their homes and hearts. Mr. Thomas Moore, Nassagaweya, is announced to take the chair this morning.

Among those taking part are Rev. A. E. Smith, Rev. J. C. Wilson, Acton; Rev. Christopher Cookman, Lowville; Gilbert McKechnie, Scotch Block; Rev. Jabez Hill, Palermo; Rev. A. Blair, Nassagaweya; Rev. T. Albert Moore, secretary of Lord's Day Alliance, Toronto.

The members of the Epworth League had a most entertaining hour Tuesday when Electrician Carruthers illustrated and explained the galvanic battery, the electric bell, the dynamo and the incandescent lamp.

One who was a very familiar figure in the early days of Acton's history, Samuel Worden, passed away last Thursday in Michigan. Skating was splendid on Thanksgiving Day, and the lovers of golf had a delightful afternoon.

The big chimney at the Acton Tanning Co.'s works was completed on Friday. It is a sky-scraper indeed, 145 feet high. It is the largest and finest smoke stack in the county; 70,000 bricks were used. A new 100 h.p. boiler is also being built in.

One of the oldest residents of this vicinity died in the person of Mrs. David Smith. She was born in 1831 on the old homestead near where she died. Her name was on the church register of the Congregational church, Churchill for sixty years.

At eight o'clock Sunday morning the barn, hay and cats of John Watson, Bower Ave. were consumed, a loss of \$200.

BACK IN 1934

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 22, 1934
The frame building on Mill Street between Hissard's store and the Hydro shop was torn down last week. This was one of the last frame buildings on Mill St. Acton's main street has undergone steady improvement and this latest work almost completes the modernizing of the thoroughfare.

The Y.M.C.A. building continues to progress splendidly toward completion. The electric wiring and plumbing are completed and have passed inspection. It is expected that the heating system will be ready for use next week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Mowat received a cablegram last week from their son, Dr. Harold Mowat, saying he had been successful in passing his examination for the degree of Fellow Royal College of Surgeons of London, England. Dr. Mowat is to be congratulated in reaching the top of his profession.

The past week has had a decided likeness to Indian Summer. The chicken stealing epidemic which has broken out in Nelson is still adding victims to the long list. The latest poultry house to be raided by thieves is that of W. J. Henry near Lowville, who lost 45 of his best birds in one night.

Rockwood lost a well-known and respected citizen in the person of Mr. Jim Hurt on Friday. He was at one time on the rural mail route. One feature in favor of the old style phonograph over the radio is that it doesn't take time out to tell us about tooth paste, auto tires and stomach medicine.

Rev. C. L. Poole, pastor of the United Church, has received thanks for the carloads of goods sent to the west. "Nearly all the people are on relief," it said.

Marrried at Rockwood in 1884, Mr. and Mrs. George Soper observed on Monday their fiftieth anniversary.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

- MEDICAL**
DR. W. G. C. KENNEY
Physician and Surgeon
Office in Synon Block,
43A Mill St. E., Acton
Office Phone 76
Residence 115 Church St. E.
Phone 150
- DR. D. A. GARRETT
Physician and Surgeon
Corner of Willow and River Sts
Entrance River Street
Acton, Ontario
Phone 235
- DENTAL**
DR. A. J. BUCHANAN
Dental Surgeon
Office—Leishman Block, Mill St.
Office Hours 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
X-RAY
TELEPHONE 148
- DR. H. LEIB
Dental Surgeon
Office—Corner Mill and
Frederick Streets
Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
TELEPHONE 19 - ACTON
- VETERINARY**
F. G. OAKES, B.V. Sc.
Veterinarian
Office and Residence—24 Knox Ave.
Acton—Phone 130
- B. D. YOUNG, B.V. Sc.
C. L. YOUNG, D.V.M.
Veterinary Surgeons
Office: Brookville, Ontario
Phone—Milton 165r21
- MISCELLANEOUS**
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FUNERAL HOME
Funeral Home, Healed Ambulance
Phone 699 night or day
Serving the community for
46 years
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A.T.C.M., R.M.T.
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Studio United Church
Thursdays
14 PARK AVE. GUELPH
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List your farms, business or house
with us. We invite you to use our
facilities in securing a purchase for
your property.
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Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public
Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.
Saturdays by appointment only
Office 22—Phone—Res 151
ACTON
- TRAVELLERS' GUIDE**
GRAY COACH LINES
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Eastbound
6:38 a.m., 6:58 a.m., 11:33 a.m.
2:08 p.m., 5:08 p.m., 6:33 p.m., 8:3
p.m., 10:13 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.
11:32 p.m., 1:12 a.m. "Sun to Ki
chenery only."
a—Daily except Sunday and hol
days.
b—Saturday, Sunday and hol
days.
- CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**
Standard Time
Eastbound
Daily 6:40 a.m.; Daily except Sun-
days 10:00 a.m.; 1:13 p.m. Sunday
only 8:01 p.m.; Daily except Sun-
day Flyer at Georgetown 9:02 a.m.;
6:37 p.m.; Daily Flyer at George-
town 10:11 p.m.
Westbound
Daily except Sun. and Mon.
1:28 a.m. Sun. and Mon. only 12:28
a.m.; Daily except Sunday 8:48 a.
m.; 6:35 p.m. (flagstop); 7:49 p.m.
Saturday only 2:27 p.m.; Sunday
only 9:43 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday
only Flyer at Guelph 7:06 p.m.;
Daily except Sat. and Sun.; flag-
stop Acton 6:10 p.m.

The Acton Free Press

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