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Competition Said Cause

S. G. Smallwood Ltd. to Leave Acton

At a meeting late Tuesday afternoon S. G. Smallwood announced to a group of employees of the company, W. A. Knippel, field representative of the I.W.O.E. Radio and Machine Workers (C.I.O.) and Mayor E. Tyler, R. F. Bean, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and G. A. Dills, editor of this Free Press, that the Acton plant of the company would terminate operations the end of this month.

Following is the text of the announcement which Mr. Smallwood read. Copies were supplied to all present:

Text of Statement
"I have invited you to be present today in order to convey personally an announcement to you and to your community.

"Because of the severe competitive conditions which exist within our industry, we find ourselves unable to continue manufacturing operations in Acton. As a result, this plant will be closed on or about September 30, 1955, and the building and land will be offered for sale.

"Every effort will be made to terminate operations in an orderly and an equitable manner, consistent with the problems with which we must contend. We will endeavor to lay off employees in accordance with their seniority in so far as is practicable.

"I would like to express sincere thanks on behalf of myself and my colleagues to those who have endeavored to make our stay in Acton an enjoyable one. We are deeply grateful for your kindness, and we shall carry with us pleasant memories of our association."

Not Fault of Town or Union

Questioned by the group following the announcement, Mr. Smallwood assured them that the move had not been precipitated by any action of the union or citizens of Acton, or their representative. He said the relationship with union officials and in Acton generally had been all that was desired. He had secured more space in Kitchener in the building and planned to resume operations there.

For some months operations had been carried on in both Kitchener and Acton. The trained help in Kitchener for this type of industry was available and had not come to Acton with the plant as anticipated.

Add New Subjects For Night School

Subjects to be offered at this year's night school in Acton have been tentatively decided on. They are elementary art, intermediate art, English grammar and literature, typing, shorthand, bookbinding, ceramics, leather work, millinery, ceramics, leather carving, upholstery, children's clothing, elementary clothing, advanced clothing and aluminum tray etching.

Final decision will depend on registration numbers. Again this year there will be one class a week for 12 weeks, beginning the first of November.

The committee has been meeting to arrange for the instruction and enrollment.

Sits for Short Session

At one of the shortest meetings of the year, Halton County Council in regular session approved an agreement with the Town of Milton, setting forth the charges of sewer rental and water rates at Halton Centennial Manor. Sewer rental was based at five mills to an agreed \$203,600 assessment. The amount will be \$1,018.00 per annum. The county agreed to a 45 cent per thousand gallon water rate.

Very little discussion followed when it was explained that it cost the town of Milton five mills to carry the debt and operate the sewer system and industry outside the town had agreed to a similar rate.

In a communication from D. Coughlan, Director of Probation Services, he announced Richard J. Honey has been appointed as Probation Officer for the counties of Halton and Peel.

The company was busy and did not have time to teach new workers the various operations. It was also said there had been a large turnover in the workers here.

Mr. Knippel drew it to the attention of Mr. Smallwood that the Union had represented had certification only in Acton, and that the U.E. union, has certification in Kitchener. He said he would give attention to the workers here in seniority and other matters incidental to the change.

The union was certified in Acton the first of June and has had five meetings to arrive at an agreement for the Acton plant. Mr. D. Allan Page, industrial relations consultant of Burlington, has acted on behalf of the company in the negotiations. Mr. Knippel said a meeting of the Acton employees had been called for Thursday when the matter will be discussed.

Asked if he had made any arrangements for sale of the building, Mr. Smallwood said the decision had been made so quickly that this phase had not been yet considered. There had been no time to evaluate the building and the renovations which had been made since moving in, he said. When this had been done he agreed to advise the Mayor of the decision. Mayor Tyler said this information was desired so that employment could be provided for residents of Acton and district.

The company purchased the building and started to move to Acton in February. At present there are 75 on the payroll, which includes the plant personnel from Kitchener. Regret was expressed that the plant here was being left. The three storey and basement structure is admirably suited for light manufacture. It was owned formerly by the Story Glove Co. which had carried on business here for over 40 years.

Boards Argue School Sale Consider Splitting District

Milton Public School Board members agreed to study a proposal submitted to them several months ago on the terms at which Milton high school could be purchased for public school use from the North Halton High School District Board, when members of the North Halton Board pointed out no answer had been received.

The action was taken at a meeting of the municipalities of the North Halton area, members of the North Halton Board and Milton Public School Board on Wednesday evening in Milton town hall. The meeting called by Milton Public School Board, was not attended by Esquering or Nassagaweya township representatives. Both townships had earlier indicated their disapproval of any sale of the Milton high school for public school purposes.

Talk Lack of Action
Discussions at the meeting ranged over the possibility of splitting the area, future needs, and the lack of action on the terms submitted.

Chairman of the meeting, public school trustee A. Deakin explained the Board had to provide facilities for pupils next year. "The Board has been patient for six months and has tried to get an answer," the chairman pointed out. He referred briefly to a resolution sent to the high school board that the public school board was not interested in the high school any more and explained that was simply to try to obtain some action.

Following a minimum of comment on the situation from the members present, Ernest Forgrave of the North Halton High School Board, had acted in good faith and "it seems we are being put in an unfavorable light at this meeting."

Said Not Interested in Sale
A discussion evolved on the action public school members had taken on the resolution from the high school board setting out terms of the possible sale, the chairman

Members approved a recommendation of the finance committee and the Halton Baseball Association \$500 to assist in financing the provincial convention being held at Oakville next year. The association had asked for \$750. A request for a \$1,000 grant to the building proper wash-room facilities was denied. "The county ownership of this park is purely nominal and we have never made a practice of giving grants for park purposes," the report stated.

Warden R. H. Shannon, Reeve A. Norvick and R. F. Smith, county engineer, were appointed as delegates to attend the annual Canadian Good Roads Association convention being held at Banff, September 13 to 18. Each delegate was allotted \$300 for their expenses.

R. S. Adams Ltd. of Milton was the successful bidder when tender for supplying coal at the

county buildings was accepted. Without comment members approved a resolution sponsored by Reeve Harold Adkins and Deputy Reeve Fred Walker. In view of the absence of a vacation policy with respect to Halton County salaried employees, the finance committee gave this matter some study in the light of vacations with full pay granted salaried employees in commerce and industry throughout our county as well as the various municipalities and Halton County Health Unit; and submit their recommendation to this council for approval of a general policy.

The reeve explained there seemed to be discrepancies in the length of holidays in various departments. He felt employees should all enjoy the same privileges. Accounts totalling \$73,661.99 were authorized to be paid.

Col. Brown, secretary of the North Halton Board, emphasized the motion had definitely been sent to the public school board and shortly after that the public school board had sent the letter to the high school board that it was not interested in sale of the school.

The motion setting out possible terms of sale was then located and members of the public school board explained that immediately following receipt of that the press had reported the action of Esquering council opposing any sale. Mr. Deakin suggested the Board thought that would preclude the effect of the motion and no action had been taken on it.

Trustee Deakin suggested that the public school board seemed to owe the high school board an apology for not having replied to the proposal. Immediate study of it was promised.

Would Discontinue Board

At the outset of the meeting the splitting of the area was discussed.

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Order Now

With the installment in this issue, Mrs. Gwen Clarke's popular series, Pages of the Past, concludes. With some corrections and additions, these articles about different areas in the county will shortly be published in book form.

Since copies will be strictly limited, orders are being taken well in advance to ensure interested readers of a copy. Many orders have already been received. The cost of the books will be \$5 each. Advance orders, return public school members had taken on the resolution from the high school board setting out terms of the possible sale, the chairman

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Friday Night Open By-Law Passes First Step at Council



THE SCHOOL BELL HAS RUNG and this group of junior graders are the last in Tuesday morning when a band of squealing, impatient youngsters congregated outside the stone school doors waiting for "the five to nine" to sound. Although it's no worry to these public school pupils, a record, room-packing enrolment of 651 is causing concern to Board officials who envision a new school necessary.

P.U.C. Is Not Bound by Schedule On Local Subdivision Services

Acton Public Utilities Commission went on record last week as being bound by no schedule for installation of services, particularly hydro lines, at the Glenlea subdivision. Members declared the subdividers' occupancy dates to future residents do not guarantee the house will be serviced by that time.

This stand was made after Secretary J. McGeachie reported several new Glenlea householders had been in the office, reportedly directed there by the subdividers demanding immediate hydro and water service.

The builders, Thomas & Thomas, have apparently no regard for the Commission's service installation difficulties in the subdivision. Mr. McGeachie indicated, and seem to expect that a promised occupancy date to the house buyer compels the Commission to have services in by the same date.

P.U.C. Has No Schedule
Chairman F. G. Oakes stressed that the Commission has no agreement schedule with Thomas & Thomas for the house servicing of hydro.

Mayor E. Tyler affirmed this and agreed a letter should be sent to Thomas & Thomas making the Commission's position clear.

Hydro superintendent D. Mason reviewed the Glenlea area which has been served and pointed out on a map the section yet to be served with hydro.

Another difficulty, which is also to be mentioned in the letter to the subdividers, is with transformers which are not located off rights-of-way. It is to be emphasized that the Hydro department must have access to all transformers and lines located at the rear of houses.

Another grievance is to be included in the letter. The Secretary said that plumbers working on the houses are evidently turning on water at the curb cocks, before the houses are occupied and meters installed, to test fixtures. In many cases the water is being left on.

Increase on Interim Rate
It was later agreed by all Commission members that immediate steps should be taken to install water meters in occupied houses

Questions Raised on Designation Of Retailers in Some Classifications

A by-law which would shift Saturday night opening hours to Friday night for at least 18 Acton merchants was read a first time in Council Monday night after member were presented with a petition claiming 75 per cent support for the new hours in seven classifications of business listed.

Although the by-law, repealing former store hours by-laws, got through the first stage, council considered it was still not satisfied of the accuracy of some of the designations. Members questioned particularly the "Food Market" classification.

The following stores were listed in the petition: Se to Stores, Hinton's Furniture, Electrical Appliances, Radio and TV and Music stores, Manning's Acton Home Furnishings, Watson's Music Store; Flour and Feed stores, Acton Farm Supply; Supermarkets and Food Markets, Ledger's I.G.A., Bradley's, Marks', Carrolls', Dry Cleaners, Custom Cleaners, The Tops Cleaners; Clothiers, Men's, Boys' Ladies', Girls' and Children's Wear, Family Outfitters, Bob Riddsdale, Mildred Bell, Hinton's Dept. Store, Eisen's, Gord, McCutcheon's (with stipulation by G. McCutcheon that all day Wednesday be open when holiday is in latter part of the week.

Schools Filled
The high school is jammed this week with an enrolment of 188 pupils and the new wing still not ready for occupancy. It is expected that the new classrooms will be ready by next week for the overflow crowds in the school. Enrolment and accommodation will then just match, according to the principal, E. Hansen.

In the public school, enrolment was just about what was expected by the principal, G. W. McKenzie—651 Of these 45 pupils are new to Acton. The old school, new school and old former high school are all well filled with the youngsters.

Award Honors A.H.S. Student

Although neither Janice Baker nor her family has heard anything about it, a list of winners of admission scholarships to the University of Toronto includes her name. The lengthy list of awards released this week indicated that Evelyn Janice Baker of Acton High School had won a Firth award.

Contacted yesterday, Mrs. Baker said they had received no notification of the award and she knew Janice, working in Toronto hadn't either.

Acton's top student is due to enter University College of the University of Toronto in Modern Languages and Literatures in about two weeks.

The phone call from the Free Press was the first word the Bakers had received of the honor. The family planned to discover more about the Firth awards just as soon as they could.

Urgent Need for Water
At the close of Monday night's six hour sitting, Mayor Tyler read a copy of a prepared statement by S. G. Smallwood, made earlier in the day, announcing the intention of his firm to leave Acton. (This story is reported fully elsewhere on this page.)

"Where is he going from here?" was the only question asked. "Back to Kitchener, I understand," Mayor Tyler said.

A few minutes before, Mayor Tyler again stressed the urgency for Acton to get more water storage space. With consumption nearly eight and a half million gallons in August, he emphasized it was also imperative to find new sources of supply.

While discussing possible sources, Clerk McGeachie revealed that the Department of Health is anxious about the adequacy of the town's water supplies.

Water figured in another problem worked over by Council. Following receipt of approval from the Department of Health for the \$50,000 water main installation into the Lakeview subdivision, the question of type of pipe caused some head scratching.

"Silly to SH and Decide"
Councillor Irwin recommended transit pipe be used, but Reeve J. Hargrave and Mayor Tyler expressed doubts about the suitability of this pipe.

"Don't you think it's silly for us to sit here and decide on something we know nothing about," Councillor S. Brunelle asked.

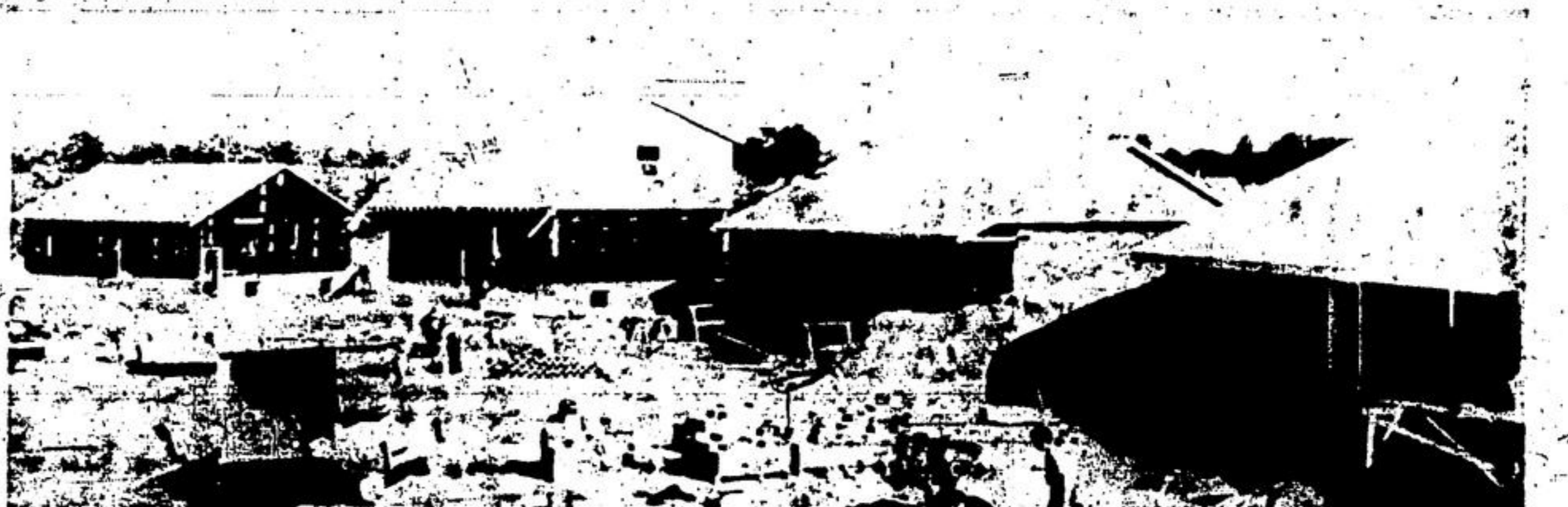
After an exchange of views on the pros and cons of transit vs. cast iron pipe, a motion carried that transit pipe be used subject to the approval of the engineer. Main argument for the use of the transit material was because it was believed cheaper than cast iron.

At the outset of the meeting, A. Mason and B. Ramsden appeared on space.

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GLENELEA SUBDIVISION, with over 20 homes occupied and that many more near completion, is expanding further south as construction forges ahead. Recently 66 lots were purchased by another builder from the original subdividers Thomas & Thomas, and work will shortly start on 43 houses at the far end. The above group is at the southern end.



LAKEVIEW SUBDIVISION, where Fraleigh Construction Co. of Hamilton is developing 240 lots, has about 15 houses well up and more foundations ready for walls and interior structure. This summer the subdividers took out a block of 28 permits. The group of houses shown above are being built on a semi-circular line at the north end of the area.