

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 1957

Have That Job Done Now

With the area, in common with many others in Canada, leading into the period when the slump in employment becomes more pronounced, it is to be hoped that the appeals by the advisory committees of National Employment Service Offices for action that will create jobs, are taken to heart.

The appeals are directed at homeowners, business places and industry. They are particularly urgent this year, since the soft tendency in the economy is pushing the jobless total towards unhealthy proportions.

It is readily understood that industry can do little in the way of increasing its production forces if orders are lagging. But wherever possible construction, maintenance and plant improvement projects, if undertaken at this time, would help the general situation.

Undoubtedly many merchants have ideas for improvement and expansion of their premises. There is no better time than the present or through the winter period to have these projects carried out.

They'll be agreeably surprised at the facility with which craftsmen can handle their needs at this time and through the winter.

If all segments of the community will conscientiously canvass the job opportunity possibilities within their control, and take the necessary action, an appreciable movement towards containing the jobless totals will result.

Only Reasonable Solution

While we hesitate to recommend or encourage any further "compulsory" pieces of legislation we can't help feel the growing need for compulsory automobile insurance in the light of the inadequacy of the unsatisfied judgement fund.

Recently in a Hamilton court an 18 year-old youth who had been blinded in an automobile accident was awarded a \$125,000 judgment. The story was the tragedy of a young athlete, a youth who had played hockey, football and basketball for teams in the Hagersville district where he lived and the unfortunate and sudden loss of his sight.

While the judgment seems reasonable in the light of what the youth has lost there are two other tragedies in the case.

First, the man against whom the judgment was issued lacked public liability insurance and as a result the youth would get a maximum of \$5,000 from the unsatisfied judgement fund.

The second tragedy is the one of which little has been written. It's the tragedy of the father of four against whom the judgment was rendered. Reportedly earning between \$50 and \$60 weekly, the defendant will go through life with that judgment hanging over his head and with regular payments required first to the unsatisfied judgement fund and then on the larger amount—the remaining \$120,000—which undoubtedly will never be met.

The youth will never get the amount to which the courts have held him entitled and the worker will never get out from under the judgment he must carry.

The inadequacy of the unsatisfied judgement fund is easily spotlighted in these circumstances. The need for compulsory insurance to cover such instances on a contributory basis would seem the only reasonable solution.

The Big Let Down

After the build-up it received Finance Minister Donald Fleming's "pocket budget" seems to be bringing nothing but disappointment. The automobile industry has already described the "excise tax cut as meagre. Corporations collectively have been given \$12,000,000 for a full year. Taxpayers without children get a minimum reduction of \$30 or \$9 cents a week. For lower incomes it means \$20 or \$8 cents a week. The man with a child in the low-income bracket gets another \$10 reduction in the year, though of

course the additional \$100 exemption becomes more important as income rises.

It may be, however, that Mr. Fleming deserves more sympathy than scorn. He was committed by his leader to tax cuts this session. In this sense his budget was premature. He is, in effect, budgeting for 1958-59, not for the current year. He has had to determine now, not in March, what his next year's revenues are likely to be and they are more likely to be lower than higher. He has to decide now and not in March, whether he is going to attempt to balance next year's budget. If there is any chance, which seems doubtful, he would have thrown it away by giving that other \$80,000,000 available this year, to the taxpayer.

Today the Finance Minister might have been a wiser and happier man if he had either accepted deficit financing—which he may have to do anyway—or persuaded the Prime Minister to forget the tax promise for 1957—which no one is going to believe he has fulfilled.

To Up-Grade Standards

As part of a program to upgrade the standard of driving examinations throughout the Province, two representatives of the Motor Vehicles Branch, Ontario Department of Transport, have completed a course at Northwestern University on the selection and training of driver examiners, Transport Minister Jas. N. Allan reported recently.

"I am satisfied that improper driving is the big factor in accidents and any effort to keep the unskilled, incompetent and unsafe drivers off the road must begin with the driver-license test," Mr. Allan said.

"The course at Northwestern University is the only one of its kind and provides an opportunity to study the best methods of examining procedure. One of our best men has now completed the second part of a four-unit course and this training will be of great value in the course for examiners we propose to conduct.

"We are in the process of establishing examining centres in Hamilton, London and the Port Credit area where applicants, as in the case of the Toronto area, will be required to pass written, vision and sign recognition tests in addition to the behind-the-wheel road test. This program will be extended to other large centres in the forthcoming year.

"The more searching driving examination is one step that we are taking as part of our expanded driver-improvement program, and it being done with a view to improving the calibre of driving on our streets and highways."

Testing the driver examiners may improve the standards of driving provided they are equipped with reasonable tests to form an opinion on a driver's qualifications before issuing a permit. For too long, in many centres, the driving test was made a laughable matter.

Using Your Feet

Why not a National Walking Week? They now have a week set aside for the glory of the jewellers. There's a whole week for the promotion of tea, and of course there's Salad Week—among the numerous other "Weeks."

Don't they know that walking is almost a lost art; that strolling is becoming virtually extinct?

Go into the country, favorite stamping ground of the walker. You won't see anyone strolling; just cars whizzing by. It is almost impossible to experience a beautiful view from an auto window. All you get is "the forward look."

Even city pedestrians are fast disappearing. Look for them on a Sunday afternoon on a city street—few will be window-shopping.

Weekdays the city dweller just hops from car to office door to restaurants for meals or walks a few feet to a store. Shopping centres allow him to bring his car to the entrance of most of the places he wants to shop and elevators and escalators prevent him from becoming foot-weary inside.

Feet that only a few generations ago trudged through this nation opening up new vistas now are used to "step on the gas" or lift their owners into trolley buses.

Parents today are "breathless when a youngster takes his first step and then they proceed to drive him wherever he wants to go. The sight of a father going for a walk with his young son is unusual.

Picture tomorrow when better cars, light aircraft, helicopters, scooters, bicycles, and maybe even kiddie cars, will be powered by push-button nuclear energy.

Automobile manufacturers have all but eliminated the gear shift. It won't be long before the gas/pedal and brakes are replaced by push buttons.

If this keeps up the generation after-the-next will have to walk on their hands—their legs will be too weak to hold them up. Are we going to take this sitting down?



"Snow Capped Bird House"

G.A.D. About...

Christmas Gets Longer

Do your Christmas shopping early! Start a Christmas budget for next year. There are but a few of the recalls that confront one these days.

Can recall when I was a boy around Acton when Christmas was all over in three weeks every year. Nowadays it seems to last the whole 52 weeks of the year. There wasn't but one picture of Santa Claus which appeared in the Free Press and that was in an ad for G. D. Pringle of Guelph. It was a single column picture of Santa Claus standing beside a chimney and it was a good illustration. When it appeared, Christmas was really at hand.

Up town the windows of the shops, which were usually half frozen over, took on a festive appearance about mid-December. In Henderson's store and Soper's and the other stores, out came the big wooden piles of creams, light and dark hard-mixed candies and there were the sacks of nuts, nigger toes, hazel nuts, walnuts and the always reliable peanuts.

George Hynds window was half devoted to toys and Charlie Speight had one of the windows of his fish-thing shop devoted to things that appealed to youngsters. It was against these windows that we pressed our noses and got our inspirations of what gadget we might build our boys. You shopped at home then because you couldn't afford to take the time to go to the city or anywhere else. Oh yes, we always had oranges at Christmas and I recall one Christmas when we also had imported green grapes for the table. They came all packed in cardboard and were not allowed to come out until after the Christmas dinner.

But there was always an aroma and a secrecy and guarded talk for a couple of weeks prior to the event that made the pre-Christmas spirit. Mother, of course, did all the

Christmas baking. It was several days over many days and always there was an extra cookie or a dish to clean up and get a taste and if the weather was bad you could sit with your feet at the cook stove and just revel in the pre-Christmas preparation.

It'll be 60 per cent of the Christmas shopping was done in the last two days before Christmas and a great deal of the purchasing was actually done on Christmas Eve. Storekeepers kept open until midnight and sometimes later. To fill the needs people went home loaded down with Christmas shopping the night before Christmas. Delivery boys were out late delivering the bundles to the homes.

I recall well the last year I had Christmas shopping to do. There were six in our family and mother and dad I had 35 cents to spend and it took the whole two weeks to gather gifts for everyone in the family. You could get fancy handkerchiefs for a nickel, a bottle of perfume, little pictures, medals. I always believed in doing your Christmas shopping early but I never practiced it. I always have some things to get the day before Christmas. I haven't any Christmas cards yet and we've been printing them for other folks for weeks.

It's a good job most folks are not like me or Christmas would not be over until Easter had arrived.

Remember what Acton post-office used to be like on Christmas morning. I don't mean the post office we now have but the little old one that stood where the Bank of Nova Scotia now stands. The space in the seating room was almost as commodious as the space for the

public and on Christmas morning there were a lot of folks with nothing to do but go for the mail. Friends of the postmaster, James Matthews, tried to help sort the mail and usually it was an extra job for him. By noon time the place was cleared as everyone went home for the Christmas dinner.

Yes, it's better now. Do your Christmas shopping and preparation early. I'm no example to go by but recall I'm going at it this week. Last year I had to send out with one of the family to get something for my wife on Christmas eve but at 40 years, she has got used to it. Now this year, we have three more grandchildren who won't be here last year. I must urge my wife again to get going on our Christmas shopping.

Refuse Use of Revolver in Hunt

There has been a considerable difference of opinion in this area as to the legality of carrying hand guns in the past for hunting. A final decision regarding this has been handed down by W. H. Boyd, Inspector, Registrar of Firearms of the Ontario Provincial Police.

Mr. Boyd's letter to P. Barber, Secretary of the Waterloo County Revolver Association, Kitchener, Ontario, is quoted below for the guidance of all concerned:

"It has been the policy in the past to allow members of revolver clubs in possession of firearms to carry their revolver or pistol when hunting.

"Would you please advise all members of your club that this policy has been changed and in the future any member of a revolver club found pointing or carrying his revolver or pistol in the bush for hunting will have his firearm permit cancelled."

Mrs. G. Currie Injured When Car Hits Pole

Mrs. Gordon Currie, 12 Frederick Street, Acton, suffered bruises and shock when her car she was driving went out of control on the slippery pavement approximately three miles east of Acton, last Friday.

Proceeding east to Georgetown, where she is employed, Mrs. Currie lost control of her vehicle on the icy road and the car crashed into a hydro pole, injuring the driver and causing extensive damage to the vehicle.

Difficulty was experienced by those first on the scene of the accident in extracting the driver from the damaged vehicle.

After examination, Mrs. Currie was allowed to proceed to her home.

Milton O.P. detachment investigated the accident.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1907

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Dec. 12, 1907

A number of shareholders of the oil well have been dissatisfied with the report given by the government oil expert who examined this locality some time ago. He reported that no oil could be found here. They have corresponded with one of the best American oil experts and the following extracts from one of his letters dated November 25th, 1907 will speak for itself:

"Morgan Crewson, Esq., Crewson's Corners, Ont.

Sir: We have received yours of the 20th. We would like to know the name of the government expert who made the statement that 'no oil would be found below the red Medina.' The very best of fields ever struck in Ohio and Indiana are in the Trenton rock below the Medina."

As the well has been drilled several feet in depth, Mr. Crewson and several others are more confident that ever if indications are good, they will start operations as soon as a deep well drill can be secured.

Posters are out announcing the annual municipal nominations.

G. A. Black advertises for 50 men to cut cordwood at \$1.10 per cord.

The annual ball of the Acton Free Brigade will be held in the town hall tomorrow evening.

Messrs. W. B. Storey & Son continue to run overtime. There is no business depression there evidently.

The annual examinations in the High School and Public Schools will be held on Friday afternoon, 20th inst. A cordial invitation to attend is extended by the teachers.

The drama and concert given under the auspices of Acton Lodge, I.O.O.F. No. 204, last Thursday was favored with one of the largest houses of the season. "The Social Glass" was presented. The actors were: Charles Ebbage, Stephen Hough, Lester Hux, Harry Jones, George Hinds Jr., Murray McDonald, H. Johnston, Marie, Robertson, Joan H. Hinds and William Coleman. All acted their parts well with a skill which showed very careful study and practice.

M. C. Mason's orchestra supplied an abundance of excellent music during the evening. The company went to Georgetown on Saturday and gave the drama in the town hall there that evening to a well filled house.

The annual appeal for goods and foods to brighten the homes at Christmas time for the needy of Acton is being made. The work is under the direction of the welfare board and the various organizations of the community.

Lakeside chapter I.O.O.F. met at the Y.M.C.A. social room. The vice-regent Mrs. N. H. was in charge. Plans were made for winter activities of the Order and the share that would be taken in the construction for Christmas of the Welfare Board work.

Choice turkeys were sold for 25c per lb., chocolates 3 lb. box for 60c economy coffee 1 lb. 21c.

Changes are being made in the arena. Experiments are being made to improve the sound equipment used on skating nights. A new type of horn is being tried out and the location of the horns changed. Two nights each week will be set aside for skating. The usual free skating for school children on Saturday mornings will be featured again.

BACK IN 1937

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Dec. 16, 1937

Word has been received this week by Scoutmaster George Mason that another member of Acton Troop has been made King Scout. Martin Hayward is Acton's latest Scout to attain this standing. He also receives the special Commendation certificate given to Scouts who qualify within the Commendation year. Martin is a son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Howard.

The big Christmas tree at the Mill and Main Street corner was put in place yesterday by Municipal and Public Utilities officers. It will be lighted every night until the close of the Christmas holiday season. This and the colored lights on the streets make Acton have a real Christmas appearance. A few outdoor Christmas trees have been erected by merchants and lighted.

Last evening was a full evening for members of the United Church Sunday School. At 6:30 they sat down to a supper provided by the ladies of the church. Then followed entertainment in the church auditorium. Recitations were given by Shirley Kenton, Margaret, Helen, Mary, Miss and Barbara Vincent. Then a motion picture, "Whistles in Africa." Santa then made his visit and distributed oranges and candies for every child attending. Superintendent A. T. Brown and his staff had a busy time in all the arrangements.

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PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

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DR. D. A. GARRETT Physician and Surgeon Corner of Willow and River Sts. Entrance: River Street Acton, Ontario Phone 238	OPTICAL E. L. BUCHNER, R.O. Optometrist ACTON OFFICE CLOSED NEXT WEDNESDAY
DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER Physician and Surgeon 39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont. Phone 679 Office Hours 6-8 p.m.	AUDITING - ACCOUNTING LEVER & HOSKIN Chartered Accountants 51 Main St. N. 212 King St. W. Hamilton, Ontario Phone: GL 1-4823 FM 4-9131
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THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON Rev. Ray H. Costerus, Pastor Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave. Phone 206-W	UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA Acton, Ontario Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D. Minister Parsonage—Bower Avenue Phone 60 Mr. George Elliott Organist and Choral Leader 78 Bower Ave., Acton, phone 6	THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont. Rev. Ewan H. Jones, B.A., C.T., Rector, 183 Jeffrey St., Tel. 263	ACTON PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY Meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Pastor: Rev. J. H. Hinds 81 Cook St., Telephone 610-W
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 1957 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School. 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. 7:00 p.m.—Evening Service. 8:15 p.m.—BYPU. Wednesday, 8 o'clock — Mid-week service.	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 1957 9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer. 10:00 a.m.—Junior Church and Church School. 11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship.	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 1957 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship and White Gift Service (children and adults). 7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship.	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 1957 8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion. 9:45 a.m.—Church School and Bible Class. 11:00 a.m.—Beginners' Classes. 12:00 a.m.—Choral Communion. 3:15 p.m.—Holy Baptism of infants.

ROADWAY EQUIPMENT

Snow clearing and sanding equipment of the Department of Highways is in readiness, strategically located throughout the Province, awaiting the coming of winter. Sand piles are being built up. Miles of snow fence are being erected to minimize drifting. Crews are ready for the alert that will come at the first fall of snow or freezing rain.

Proceeding east to Georgetown, where she is employed, Mrs. Currie lost control of her vehicle on the icy road and the car crashed into a hydro pole, injuring the driver and causing extensive damage to the vehicle.

Difficulty was experienced by those first on the scene of the accident in extracting the driver from the damaged vehicle.

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