

The Acton Free Press

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Are We Keeping Up?

How often we've been told about the great strides of progress in this century. How often we've talked of that progress in terms of construction, new homes, increasing populations and great new natural developments.

Outside the narrow circle in which scientists move it is not likely many people will really understand the latest scientific achievements. Unless they have the romantic appeal of a trip to the moon or the terror of a new-type bomb the developments fail to impress our thinking to engrave their impression of progress.

Actually advances have been so rapid these last few years that science is in danger of completely outstripping educated comprehension. This would have the effect in the future of making scientists a class to themselves, remote, exclusive and powerful.

Editorially a contemporary points out that "The human race is not going to step into a new Garden of Eden. The scientists have forecast that it will be many years before seawater can be transformed into abundant energy."

"But the distant material prospects look golden and there is a promise that the dream of the alchemists may be realized and man will inherit abundantly the fruits of the earth. Unfortunately, man's understanding has not kept pace with scientific discovery. Mankind needs urgently, indeed imperatively, a discovery that will match the machine ZETA at Harwell, but on the philosophic plane, something that will compel him to appreciate with proper humility the abundance with which he has been blessed."

"If, in the days to come, a teaspoonful of seawater will provide energy enough to plow a thousand-acre field, it will also provide destructive power to destroy a city. The will to choose is there as it always has been, but will the understanding be there to make the right choice?"

The Value of Activity

Shaftsbury once said "Of all the adult male criminals in London, not two in a hundred have entered upon a course of crime who have lived an honest life up to the age of twenty. Almost all who enter on a course of crime do so between the ages of eight and sixteen."

Perhaps that is why there is such concern with incidents too often grouped under the general heading of juvenile delinquency. There seem to be two ways to think of this problem in which juveniles find themselves at odds with the law. The first method is to develop an ostrich-head-in-the-sand attitude and pretend it doesn't exist. The second outlook seems to be one of more realistic concern for the causes and possible prevention.

Right now it might be a good idea to explain that we don't think this generation is any worse than its predecessors or that teenagers are destined for oblivion. They are as conscious of their obligations and growing responsibilities as any person in any generation at their age.

To pretend there is no such thing as juveniles in trouble, or to suggest that there are no more in trouble in this town than any other town is not reasonable thinking directed to alleviate or eliminate the causes of juveniles being in trouble.

No one is in a position to say "What our town needs to combat this problem is..." There is no single solution nor is there any immediate answer to cause and cure. Activity though is sure to assist in giving juveniles something that can carry their interest and attention.

Soon, on February 19, one of the town's valuable activities will be on display when hundreds of the town and district boys show what they've been learning in the way of playing hockey. The program carried on by the local Legion and volunteer coaches and officials is something the town can be proud of. And it is something that is a definite contribution to developing the interests of youngsters along the lines of sportsmanship, fair play, and team play.

The lessons learned on these teams are the type of lessons adults need to provide more of if there is to be elimination of juveniles in trouble with the law.

Topsy-Turvy Weather

You can take it from the experts the winters really are not as cold as they used to be. Science is proving that grandfather is correct when he insists on this.

In Canada, there wasn't enough snow to measure at Halifax in January. Liverpool, N.S., had a record rainfall of 11 inches that month. Newfoundland has been almost balmy—it hadn't had more than one inch of snow at any one time, going into February.

In Alberta, the warm chinook winds are responsible for flowers blooming and shrubs sprouting when the calendar says they have no business doing so.

The earth as a whole has been getting warmer over the last 40 or 50 years, the National Geographic Society says. The alteration in weather patterns is having wide results.

Last year, for the first time in history, a hurricane struck Hawaii. At Point Barrow, the northernmost part of Alaska, the ice went out earlier in 1957 than ever before recorded.

The moose and the polar bear are reported finding haunts well north of their former ranges. Eskimos in Greenland find the seals moving farther north, but codfish are also moving northward and now are plentiful near Greenland.

The shrinkage of the world's icecaps and glaciers is raising the sea levels by a fraction of an inch every year. If this trend continues some coastal cities some day will have to start thinking of dikes.

Experts on climate are not agreed on the cause. Some see it as part of the Ice Age cycle, with the ice retreating as it has done several times in past centuries. Others believe that gradual clearing of dust thrown up by massive volcanic eruptions of the past, such as Krakatau in 1883 and Katmai in 1912, has allowed more of the sun's heat to strike the earth.

There is also no agreement in whether the trend will continue. Some scientists forecast a century of warmer weather. Others have already noted an increase in the size of certain glaciers, which leads them to think the cycle may have just about reached its warmest point and it about to reverse itself.

A Best Way to Crash

What is the best way to crash? The good driver knows what to do himself when a collision is imminent, and makes sure his family knows.

It can happen to anyone. There are few hospital wards that have not heard of the undesired accidents of self-satisfied drivers, many of them did nothing but take a curve at an obviously safe speed to be run into suddenly, without provocation by a tree.

Some parents teach their families "collision drill". At a signal the children in the back seat (doors locked, of course) hit the floor. Mother in front slides forward, braces her head against the seat, grasps the back of the seat with both hands behind her head, braces her knees against the instrument panel; junior, from the same seat next to the driver, would put his feet on the instrument panel instead of knees.

Father at the wheel, in a real crash, should stay on the brake until the last moment and then, as the impact occurs, should swing his legs up on the seat beside him; this reduces the likelihood of getting his legs crushed as the forward compartment wraps around the engine. He has to act fast, but he should cut the ignition at the same time to lessen the danger of fire.

The main danger from a rear-end collision is the "whiplash" that dislocates necks. Anyone realizing the imminence of the crash should brace the neck with hands and seat back. Scientific research on cars involved in fatal accidents has established that the average speed of the cars at the moment of impact with a stationary object was 40 m.p.h.

Safe driving is the hope but accidents are reality. Would you be prepared?

Brief Comment

MAY BE ANSWER Forest genetics is still a comparatively new branch of the huge lumber industry. It may prove the cornerstone of the forest economy of the future.—Cowichan (Duncan, B.C.) Leader.

SACK SILHOUETTE

The new sack silhouette is nothing but a reread job on the flapper fashions of the 1920s. We suspect the whole sorry business is a plot cooked up by TV. It's going to be hard to tell whether the late, late show was filmed in 1958 or 35 years ago.—St. Stephen (N.B.) St. Croix Courier.



Damaged-But Debonnaire

G.A.D. About...

Valentines-Changes and Television

Got a variety of things to talk about, all of which may have no connection with each other or any particular theme. First of all, tomorrow is St. Valentine's Day and looking in the store windows these days, I must say the years have improved the observance of February 14th. All the greeting cards are pretty and seem to have messages befitting exchange among friends. They seem to be quite suitable for Dan Cupid.

When I think back on the old one-cent Valentines that used to intermingle with hearts and daisies patched without a signature of the sender, the change is certainly all for improvement. I'm not going to dwell on those old Valentines because they were not any credit to the day in any age. The messages and the suggested, Valentine Day greetings are quite suitable today to send to those you love.

Perhaps we write too much about cars these days. Some people who never saw a little red schoolbus get carried away with the past and bring into the present day thinking and discussions, comparisons which are very much out-of-place and not indicative of life in the small centres in the present day.

Since the first of the year, we have spent quite a bit of time in rearranging our plant and equipment at the Free Press. We usually do our house cleaning in January rather than in the spring. Last summer we put in a new newspaper press. The old one was at the front end of the plant. The new one was built in at the rear of the building. All the newspaper part of our operations are centred around

the newspaper press. So we moved the other parts to be closer to the rear end of the printing plant and be more efficient. In these days of individual motor drives, many of the electrical connections were in the walls and cement floor. It's a mistake because you never can be too sure of being permanent with any layout. Come to look around and find there was only one small piece of equipment that remained in the plant in use that was here when we started the printing trade. Automation has certainly played a big part. Newspaper type was all set by hand. Machines perform all these operations now except for a few odd lines. When the papers were printed each week, every letter or character had to be carefully put back in the cases ready to use over again. Today it is all controlled and automatically fed back through the machines.

Shops used to be fed through the presses by hand and now automatic fingers handle the sheets faster and more accurately than human fingers. No longer does one sheet at a time go through the newspaper press but one continuous roll it printed, cut, folded and delivered in one operation. A press feeder was an important part of the printing trade. Now this operation is almost as exact as a fireman on a diesel engine.

On Sunday afternoon at 5:30, if you tune your television in on "Perspective", you will witness a film taken in the Free Press office and various places in Acton. If you have the old recollection of steam engines, fuel-fired, hand-fed presses and printers using inadequate lighting and setting type by hand and wearing green eye-shades

and short-sleeve protectors, you'll be disappointed. The Free Press has none of these out-of-date scenes.

You folks who have been away from the old home town will find too that street scenes and places have changed a lot too. Some of the folks you may know in the street and park scenes but likely many of them will be new faces. Most of the actors, none of us will know. The main role of "The Editor" is played by an actor who at times plays the part of an Indian on "The Last of the Mohicans" TV program. Martha, his wife or Johnny, the editor's son or any other of the characters in the film are more familiar in Toronto than in Acton.

"The Editor" is shown on Sunday, in the last half-hour of the station event taken in Acton. To be shown over a network. We hope you will all be proud of the community in which you live and of the Free Press, which has for 87 years mirrored the life and progress of Acton and we hope has kept pace with the growth of the town. I'll be watching with you all next Sunday afternoon at 5:30.

Impressive Ceremony Held by Girl Guides

An impressive ceremony at the Scout Hall on Tuesday night one Browne "flew up" to the Girl Guide Company, and ten girls were enrolled into the Sisterhood of Guides. Jill Hurst of the 2nd Acton Browne Pack, whose leader is Mrs. L. MacSwain, received her Golden Hand, the highest award of Browne.

By earning her Hand before her 11th birthday, she received her "Wings" and, from the Fairy Ring of Saviors and Sunders of her Pack, was bid good-bye and flew up to Guideland. Here she was met by her patrol leader, Joan Hart, and after a welcome by Lieutenant Mrs. Tom Watson, she entered the Guide Horseshoe and became a member of the 1st Acton Girl Guide Co.

Following the living-up ceremony, and Guide roll call, Mrs. Gordon Adams, District Guide Commissioner, enrolled ten new recruits and welcomed them into Guides. They were introduced to their Patrol Leaders and revealed their Promise, after which Mrs. Adams presented them with their pens and pins, and they became full-fledged Guides.

The flag bearer for the ceremony was Joan Ramsden and the color party escorts were Susan Wilson and Eleanor Elliott. In the absence, due to illness of Mrs. Geo. Wallis, Mrs. Tom Watson acted as captain and was assisted by Lieutenant Mrs. Joe Hurst.

The following girls were enrolled Elaine Bradley, Janet Cook, Nancy Reid, Mary Beth Elliott, Gail Reynolds, Gail Battenham, Cheryl Price, Pat Quennell, Janet Adams, and Barbara Churchill. Margaret Price was unable to be present for her enrollment, due to illness. At the campfire following the ceremony, Mrs. Adams spoke to the girls about Guide Camps, and a sing-song was held. The meeting closed with "Taps". Parents of the girls were guests for the evening.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1938

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, February 17, 1938

Acton Intermediates will meet Preston in the finals and will play in Preston Saturday with the return match here on Monday.

Most Acton fans were quite surprised by the upset Preston gave Waterloo Tigers and little did they expect the Tigers to be ousted by the Preston team.

The Continuation School held their literary meeting at the school on Friday with Form II presenting the program.

Tom Watson presided over the following numbers recitation by Betty Burkholder, piano solo by Marie Brunelle, duet by Bruce Pargeter and Vernon Agnew, accompanied by Martin Hayward on the guitar, a play by Norman Wright, Hilaria Pargeter, Margaret Screen, Tom Watson, Doris Bolton, Evelyn McCaug, Betty Burkholder, Marie Brunelle and Gordon Bolton, and a reading by Gordon McCutcheon.

Final games in the Bush League schedule were played this week with Suicide Squad boxing out to the Army team "Cooks" was the referee and his action brought plenty of laughs from the spectators as he led the play roughed up and then lost control of the game when he tried to calm it down.

In the last game of the play-offs on Monday, Melomons defeated Exton 4-1 on a rather rough tangle that saw several penalties meted out.

In the second game, Army and Silver Foxes fought by a 2-2 tie in a rough contest that had referee Norm (Morton) handing out penalties to both teams.

G. Tyler and Brunelle mixed it up a little but they were overruled to the cooler before any serious damage had been done.

Acton Y.M.C.A. was represented by D. McRae at the National Council held in Niagara Falls recently. The Acton representative found that many knew of the Acton Y as a unique organization in the Canadian Association.

The high school students held a skating party at the arena last Thursday night and assembled at the school afterwards for a lunch. John Drake, fellow student, was presented with a pin and pencil set prior to his moving to Toronto.

BACK IN 1908

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, February 11, 1908

It is rather aggravating to law abiding citizens to walk along the streets at six o'clock in the morning or on Sunday evening and find flat rate users of electric current with their lamps blazing irrespective of their contract. Judges in all cases at such times the meter users' premiums are in total darkness.

The monthly meeting of the Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. J. W. Chapman, the president, last Friday afternoon.

Mrs. A. T. Brown and Mrs. R. D. Graham gave very interesting and suggestive papers. Miss Minnie Hume favored the company with a solo and the Misses Chapman, a piano duet.

Saturday night's frost found every unprepared water pipe and imperfectly drained steam pipe and the water was in several of the steam heated buildings in town.

The big 10,000 gallon water tank at the G.T.H. yards was emptied on Tuesday to permit some minor repairs to be done.

The annual meeting of the Hamilton Reform Association will be held in Milton on Saturday and a meeting will be held in the council chambers this evening to elect Acton representatives.

Officer Carahan appears with his new badge and insignia of office soon and then the evil days will need to make themselves scarce.

Rev. Father Feeney completed a decade as pastor of St. Joseph's church here. Last week Father Feeney has been longer in his present charge than any other pastor in town. He is much beloved by his congregation and highly esteemed by citizens generally.

Owing to transportation difficulties because of the huge piles of snow the Ontario Horse Breeders Show will have to be postponed.

The annual general meeting of the W. H. Storey and Son Limited was held at the office of the company last Friday. The report showed that 1907 business was the most successful the company has had for many years.

The management of the Acton skating rink have arranged for a fancy dress carnival and an attractive list of prizes for tomorrow evening. The Acton Band will be in attendance.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

Table containing professional listings for Medical, Miscellaneous, Optical, Adding-Accounting, Lever & Hoskin, Real Estate and Insurance, Dental, and Canadian National Railways.