

Too Little

We are pleased this week to publish the statement released by Mayor Cook regarding the planned vote on the abolition of the Public Utilities Commission.

May we suggest it comes a little late. Ratepayers indicated their interest in municipal affairs by attending in good numbers, the nomination meeting on Friday evening. The subject was only hastily mentioned and then never detailed. At that time ratepayers would have had an opportunity to question the advantages and disadvantages of the planned change in administration. Now there is no time left for public questioning.

From only a hasty study of the mayor's statement we can, however, find several immediate questions. In several places operating deficits are mentioned while the rate setting responsibility lies with the council. It would seem only reasonable that adequate rates would return adequate revenue.

While the necessity for hiring casual labor is cited as a reason for deficits we can hardly see where the suggestion that "the town's working force to be amalgamated under one head supervisor, who would ef-

How Arnprior Got Industries

Getting industry is almost a mysterious thing. Just why one city or town is chosen among the many seeking a certain business is hard to assess, says the Owen Sound Sun-Times. The case of the small, and isolated town of Arnprior, in the Ottawa Valley, 42 miles from the capital city, provides a number of interesting facts. It was once a wealthy lumbering town, but in recent years, its once over 5,000 population had slipped to 3,700. Now it is booming again.

"Getting industry is mainly a matter of doing a high selling job with lots of good public relations," says Mayor Robert Simpson. "We had a serious problem. We met it by making land available for industrial expansion, and by making a tax concession to the first company we interested, Playtex, Ltd."

At a public vote, 95 per cent of the town's citizens voted to give the Playtex firm a fixed assessment for a 10 year period. That vote was an important factor since the company already had surveyed 125 other towns, the mayor said. However, concessions now are a thing of the past.

The mayor was dining at a New York night club with J. T. Schofield, industrial representative of the Royal Bank of Canada, when he heard the giant Pfizer U.S. drug making firm was interested in locating "somewhere" in Canada.

The firm already had decided to erect its plant either in Toronto or Montreal. But the mayor did not give up. Finally, the company

A Sound Suggestion

The suggestion by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, in a brief before the Gordon Committee on Organization of Government in Ontario, that they consider the needs of small businesses in its investigation of governmental hazards and regulatory bodies is a sound one.

The small business that is the back bone of many communities is constantly meeting new problems and new responsibilities. Not only is there the problem of profit and loss, but also the problem of increasing governmental requirements or red tape.

A small business operator that hires another clerk immediately gets an introduction to income tax deductions, compensation and a host of others.

We realize that problems are not all heaped on by the provincial government but it matters little to the small operator which government originates them.

It used to be that the industrious individual could start his own business without a great deal of difficulty. Now it seems almost essential that he get not only his own services but also those of a bookkeeper as well.

The farmer is a small business operator too and we have no doubt he would, if it was financially possible, want to appeal some of the decisions concerning pipe lines.

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Too Late

Gently correlate all requirements pertaining to the different departments will add any additional work force. The only addition would appear to be a super superintendent.

As the mayor points out the Public Utilities Commission was established in 1926 when water receipts and expenditures were approximately \$6,500. Today they have more than tripled. It must follow then that the responsibilities have increased equally. If in 1926 it was felt that a separate group should supervise that revenue we can hardly see how today's overworked councillors, already burdened with an abundance of committee meetings, can be expected to handle efficiently three times the responsibility.

There are other items that ratepayers will want to question in the proposed vote even at this late date. Never in the history of Acton has so little been said so late on a question voters were asked to express an opinion on.

If the change is a worthy one it will stand the fire of public debate. This, we feel, is sufficient reason for retaining the present Public Utilities Commission until more information might be given the voters and public discussion allowed to follow.



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Quiet Waters



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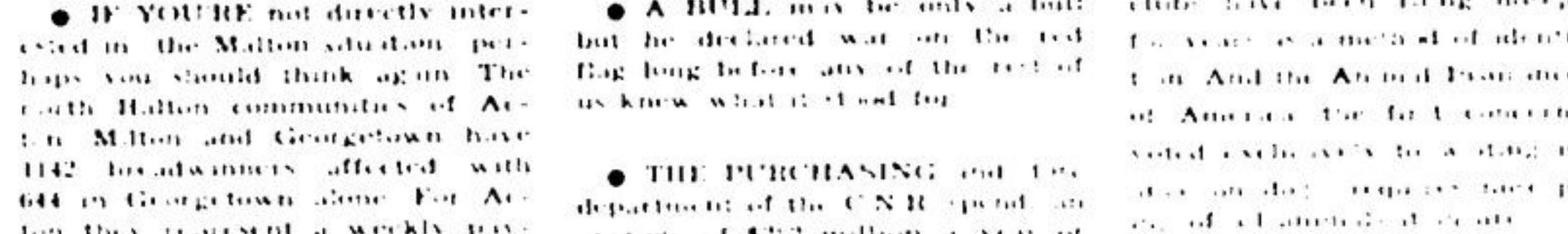


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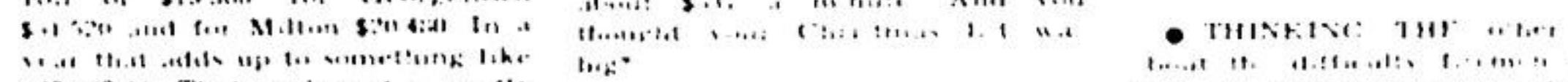


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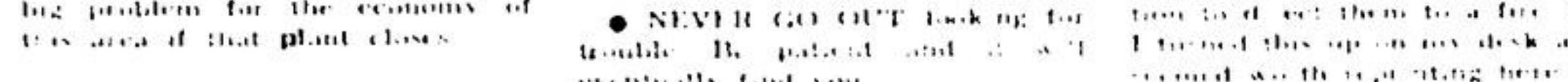


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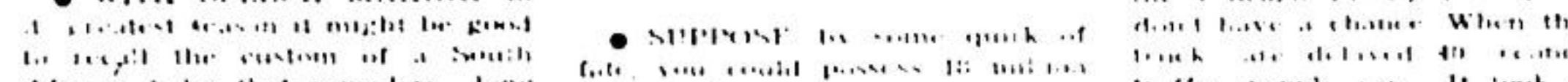


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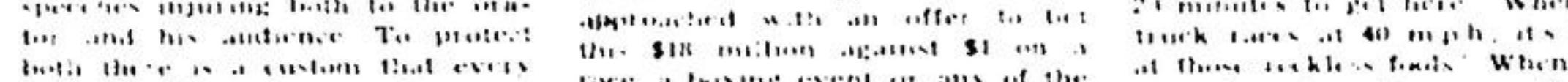


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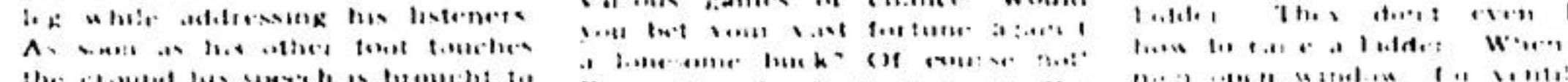


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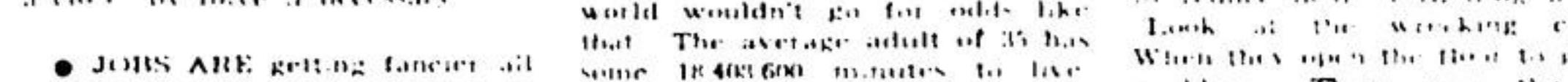


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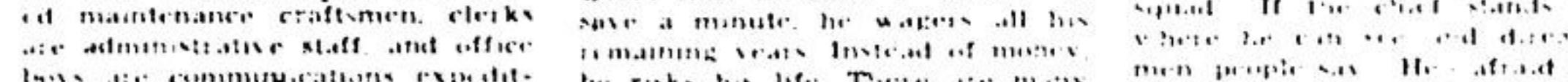


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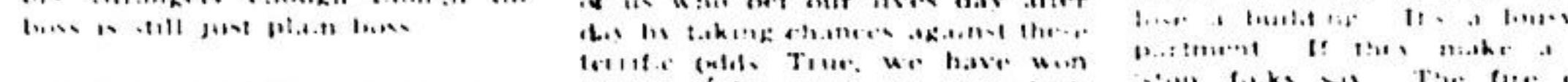


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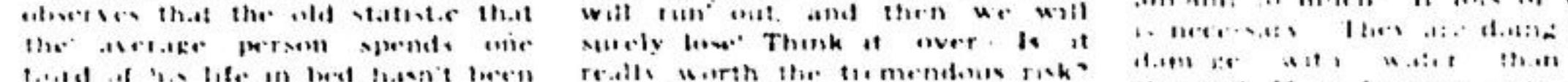


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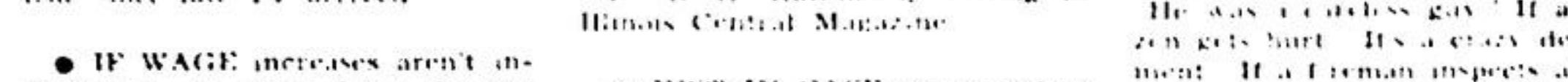


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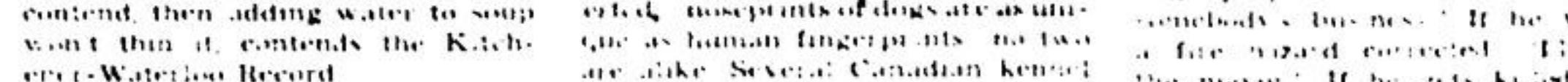


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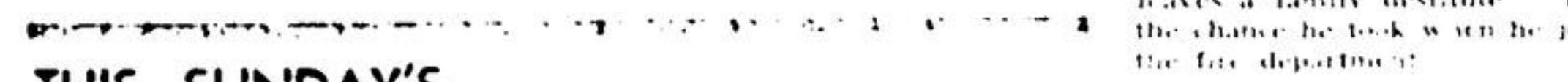


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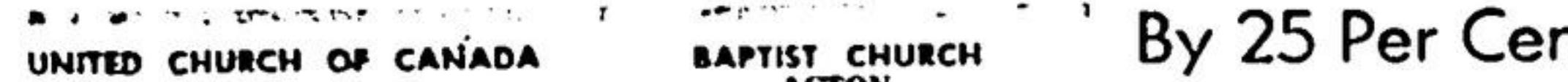


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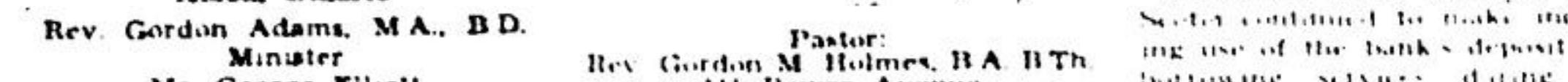


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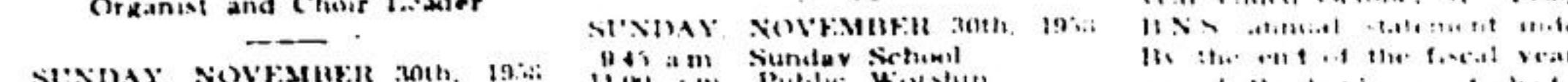


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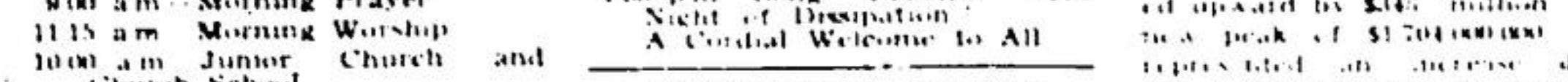


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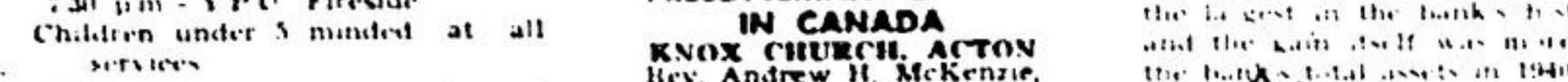


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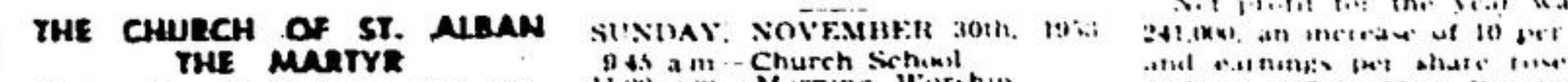


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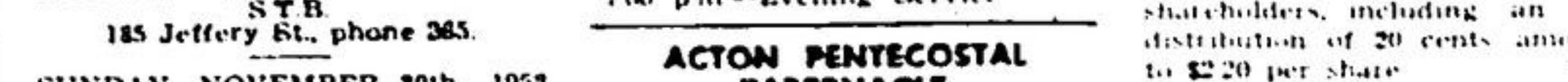


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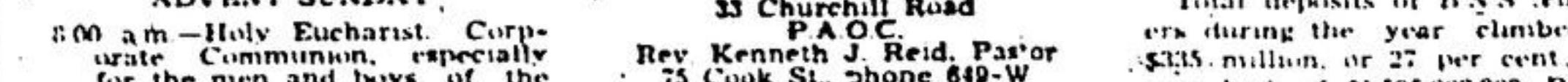


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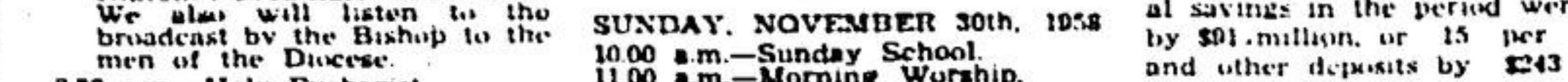


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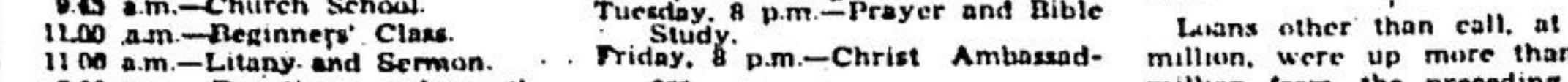


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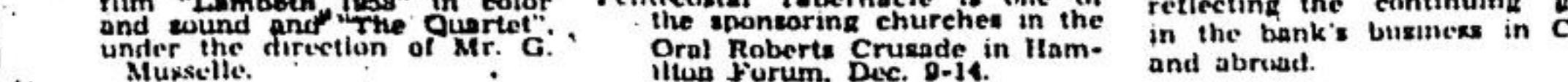


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THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1938

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 1, 1938.

Meals Fred Wilds and William Johnson were each successful in shooting a deer on their recent trip north. Mr. Wilds favored the Free Press with a generous cut off his when it arrived last week.

Mr. J. H. Mackenzie, contractor, had the foundation ready for another double house on Main St. He will utilize the frame of the old Adams house at the corner of Church and Main Streets and move it to the new foundation next to the house recently sold to Mrs. John McRae.

Milton estate I. has had Morgan Cawson down to water watch an additional supply of water for the inadequate town system. It is alleged that he located a large spring available for addition to the present supply.

Meals Johnson and Co. have put new embossed metal ceilings in the offices and shoproom room of the Canada Grove Works. They made a very fine job which has greatly improved the appearance of the premises.

It was a very interesting gathering of Halton residents yesterday to hear the guests of Warden Bertie MacKenzie at the band concert given by the London Scots Band on the large grounds at Guelph Street, Acton. The band played a varied program of musical selections.

Yesterday was the last day on which taxes could be paid on Acton property without the penalty and a report from Mrs. Speight, of the Public Utilities office, shows the collection not as large as last year at the same period.

Boats were rather scarce on Saturday and Sunday.

A two weeks' vacation which has been in course last week at the Baptist church and this week at the United church is drawing to a close much to the regret of many who have experienced their inspiring helpfulness. The Rev. Dr. Vining is a forcible speaker and constructive preacher. The meetings have been largely attended.

It was rather interesting to note that Halton County Council endorsed the resolution urging against compulsory pasteurization of milk in the province. In view of the weight of medical and scientific data it is a bit difficult to understand this attitude.

The members of Acton Fire Dept. beat the difficult terrain often to get sufficient information to fit them to a fire. Then followed this upon my desk and it seemed we were repeating here from the Chicago Fire Dept. Firemen don't have a chance. When the fire truck is delayed 40 seconds in getting to a fire, people die. To get to a fire in 20 minutes is a miracle. And when the truck runs at 40 mph, it's clock at those reckless fools. When four men struggle with an eight man ladder, they don't even know how to raise a ladder. When firemen open windows to reduce heat in fighting a fire, they open the door to get at a blaze. There goes the axe squad. If a chief stands back where he can't see, he afraid to go where he sends his men. If a fireman is a builder, he is a lousy department. If they make a fool stop, folks say, "The fire didn't amount to much." It's a waste of money to have to do more damage with water than the flames. If a fireman gets hurt, he is a useless guy. If a citizen gets hurt, it's a civic department. If a fireman inspects a citizen's property, he's meddling in somebody's business. If he wants a fire razed corrected, let's sue him. If he gets killed and leaves a family destitute, that's the chance he took when he joined the fire department.

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