

Editorial Page

Four Out of a Hundred

Ever since Russia was first to get a man-made satellite into orbit in our universe there has been breast-beating in the West over the "failure" of our society to educate and put to full use its best talents. In Canada a frequent self-criticism on this subject has been that the state simply has not provided enough aid at the university level. But statistics on schooling in Canada indicate that if not enough Canadians are going to college, the fault is less at the top of the education ladder than several steps below. And the cause is not lack of opportunity, but some other lack in our young people and their parents.

A report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics states that in the school year 1957-58 the total enrolment in publicly-controlled schools in Canada was 3,474,642. In that year, enrolment in Grade Nine, first year of high school, was just half—209,926. And enrolment in Grade 13, the final grade of high school and college entrance year, was only 14,160. In other words, for every 100 children starting out in the public school system, only four were staying through to the finish.

The cause of this remarkably poor record is not lack of opportunity. The schools and teachers are there. In some small num-

ber of cases financial problems may require a family to put a school-age child to work, although when the family allowance scheme was introduced 15 years ago one of its stated purposes was to "provide equal opportunity" to Canadian children.

An article in the Labour Gazette a few months back made this comment on the subject: "A study carried out some years ago by the Canadian Research Committee on Practical Education shows clearly that economic necessity is not the only or even the main reason for which young people leave school, although it is a reason given more often by girls than boys.

Lack of interest, or rather lack of seeing any purpose in further education, is perhaps more compelling. Early marriage is often a cause of girls terminating their studies. Poor marks, a desire for a change and lack of encouragement at home are also known factors."

Wasted talents? More tax money spent on university aid? Well, the question seems to be less how we can get more of our young people through university than how we can get more of them through high school so they can even consider entering college.

The Conversion to Teachers

Things seem to be changing in the professions with many from industry making their way into teaching. Readers of Sugar and Spice, on this page, will know that Bill Smiley, editor of the Wairdén Echo is giving up newspaper work to go into teaching.

We know one editor who won't be making the change. Of course it used to be school teachers who were becoming editors.

The Dutton Advance points out some of the reasons, perhaps, why teachers left the profession in the eighties, in this article borrowed from that publication, and titled "Things Could be Worse."

Our friends in the teaching profession, who feel they have a rough time of it today, should at least be thankful they were not in the business away back around 1872. At that time, according to Galaxy Science Fiction, the following rules were laid down for those instructing in the three R's.

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys, and trim wicks.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.

Mr. Speaker

It was a sign of health in the Canadian political system that the Speaker of the House of Commons, Roland Michener, could call the Prime Minister to order last week and require him to retract an unparliamentary statement. Mr. Speaker is supposed to be an impartial referee in the Commons debates and it's plain that Mr. Michener performs this function without fear or favor.

Nevertheless it's true that, under the Canadian system, the post of Speaker, just like a post in the cabinet, is the gift of the Prime Minister. After each Dominion election a new Speaker is chosen from the majority party and it's the Prime Minister who does the choosing.

The M.P. so honored may be ambitious, in succeeding parliaments, to hold ministerial rank. Consequently he requires unusual toughness of character to resist the temptation to favor the party in power and the P.M. in particular.

The solution of this problem, as devised

Follow the Rules

Hundreds of Canadians die each year because they neglect simple rules of water safety. Half of these drownings occur during June, July and August and many drownings are caused through boating mishaps.

Follow these rules for safe boating:

1. Do not overload your boat. Leave plenty of freeboard.
2. If weather is threatening, stay close to shore.
3. Beware of canoes. Fishing from canoes or using them as sailing craft is hazardous.
4. Keep approved life-preservers in your

boat. Non-swimmers should wear these at all times.

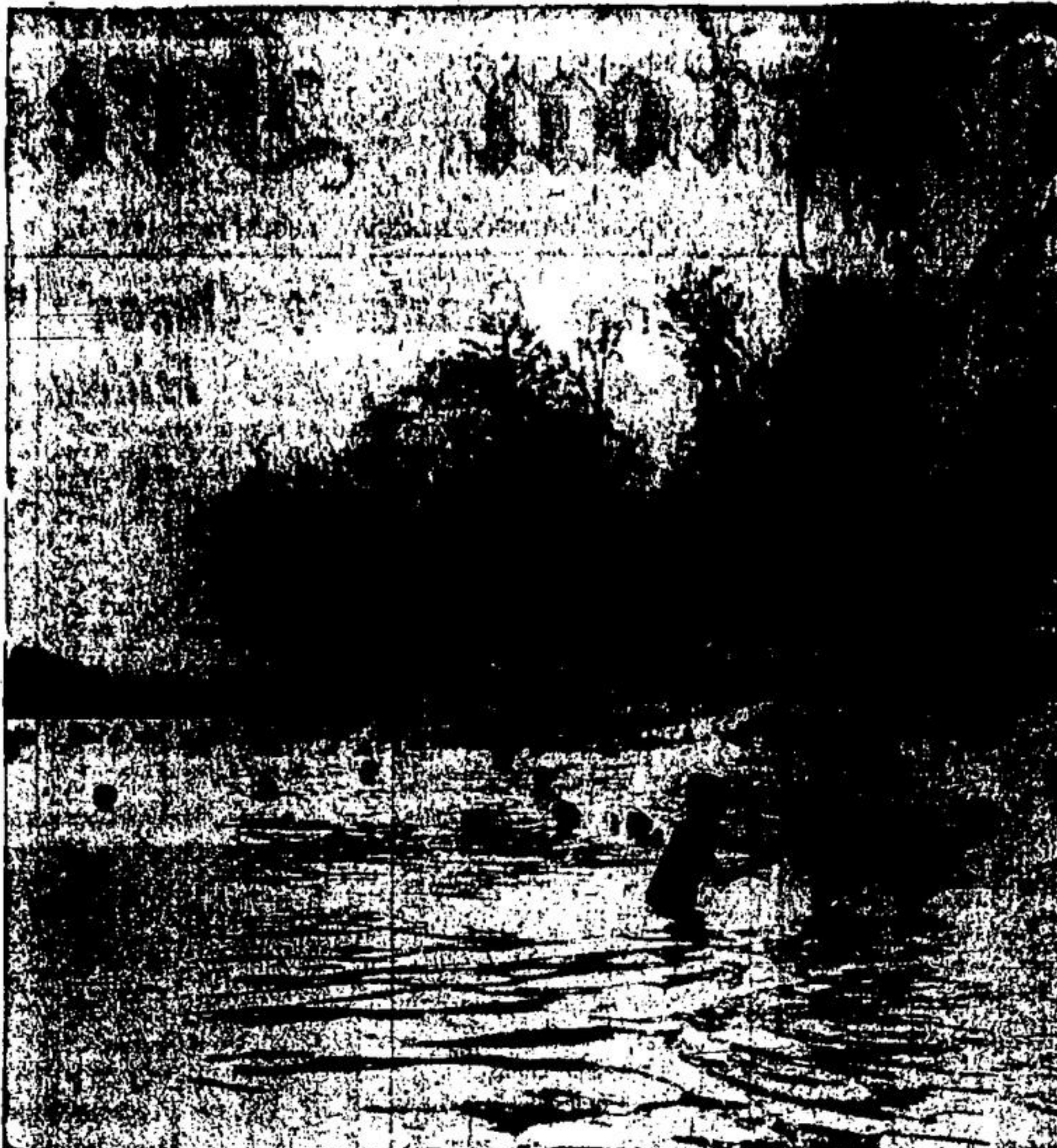
5. Do not use your boat with a motor of excess power.

6. Keep your speed down. Speeding in motor boats can be just as dangerous as in cars.

7. Stay away from areas where people are swimming.

8. Do not attempt long trips across open water in small boats.

9. If your boat overturns, do not try to swim to shore. Stay with the boat.



—Photo by Esther Taylor

Holiday Fun

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

There's been a resounding tangle recently about Canada's divorce laws. A couple of members of our House of Commons have refused to play the annual parliamentary game known as "Let's Pass these Blasted Divorces and Get Home". So their fellow M.P.s swelter and mutter in the heat of the capital.

Alternating from delight in the exposure of the shoddy fabrication of divorce evidence, to shocked outrage at the inadequacy of our divorce laws, the metropolitan papers are having a field day, tipping a heavy wink at their circulation managers between headlines. It's the best gimmick they've come across since capital punishment, for selling papers.

All this foafawraw about divorce has sorely confused my slow cousin Winslow. Last time I saw him, he was really bewildered. "Does all this here stuff," he asked me, "mean that ya can't have no adultery no more unless you're married?" I had quite a time straightening him out.

"No, no, Winslow," I explained. "It means you can go right on being crazy, a drunk, a wife-beater, or a family-deserter, and your wife is stuck with you, for better or worse. It's only when one of the parties to the marriage commits adultery, with witnesses, that you can untie the knot. And as that is a pastime that does not encourage the presence of witnesses, you have to sort of make believe. You hire a whole lot of people, like detectives and lawyers and a nice lady who will pretend she's a shady lady. All this costs a lot of money and that's why fellows like you and me seldom get a divorce."

Winslow was relieved. "Ya mean I don't hafta look her up and bring her back and get one a them divorces?" he beamed. Perhaps I should mention that Winslow's wife left him years ago, because he wouldn't change from winter to summer underwear, and he's been as happy as a hog ever since.

There's no doubt about it, though, our divorce laws need a drastic overhauling. And I'd be happy to sit on the committee in charge of drafting the new ones. I'd certainly change a few things.

First of all, I'd put the cost of divorce on a sliding scale, based on your income. There would be a \$25 bottom, for the small wage earner, running up to as much as \$100,000 for the Hollywood star who is making a million a year. This would give the ordinary joe a chance to knock off the shackles when he arrived at the desperation point, and it would also put a crimp in the marriage merry-go-round among the neurotic rich.

To adultery as the sole excuse for divorce, I would add incurable insanity, desertion and alcoholism. Deserters and boozers would get two chances to pull up their socks. If they couldn't make it stick, they'd get a fast divorce and five years in jail. Nothing like a stretch on the stone pile to cure a hanger, or that wandering urge. There lies the danger that many men would be happy to do five in such a cause, and we might have to build a lot more jails, but that could be worked out.

Those would be my basic reasons for a divorce suit. But I would provide one other escape hatch. Each couple along with the marriage certificate, would be handed a large sheet, with a printed list on it. This would be made up of such misdemeanors as: Bad Temper, Bad Breath, Extraneous Getting Fat, Not Shaved, Drunk Again, Naggging, Smoking Too Much, and so on. You get the idea.

Each of the newlyweds would start with a hundred

...Dodging 'Round the District

BY ROY DOWNS

MILTON—When the Twelve Mile Creek conservation authority decided to drop plans for a parkette at Mount Nemo in northern Burlington, members of the Upper Burlington Citizens Forum protested loudly. The authority found land acquisition was too costly, and agreed to forfeit their scheme but the residents told the authority they should continue to acquire property at any cost, to keep the escarpment green and out of the hands of speculators.

OAKVILLE—Most of the apartments in the new senior citizen's housing project of the Oakville Rotary Club have been spoken for. The project consists of four one-storey buildings, each containing four apartment suites, and they should be ready by September 1.

GEORGETOWN—"If a man over 40 can sit on council, surely he has the ability to be an assistant foreman," said councillor Harrison when objections were raised in council about a council advertisement for help, which stated the applicants should be "preferably under 40". Council agreed, and the offending phrase was deleted.

BURLINGTON—Contract talks between Burlington and the town's outside works department employees will go to conciliation, after negotiations broke down last week over the issue of coffee breaks. The works complained the town failed to provide coffee breaks in the agreement. Valerie Hejino of Burlington was named Miss Burlington, 1960 in the contest Thursday evening. Milton's pretty Ruth Dixon ran a close third.

BRAMPTON—Dogs are warned to be on the lookout—the catcher may soon be coming. Council is negotiating with Cecil Robertson of Glen Williams to patrol the town looking for stray dogs. Mr. Robertson presently patrols Acton's and Georgetown's dog-dome.

GEORGETOWN—One girl received a bruised shoulder and another had a broken nose, after being pelted by stones thrown by three youths. Police reprimanded the boys and warned others they will be severely dealt with.

points. Then they would keep score on each other. For example, 10 points off for getting soaked with the boys. Displays of bad temper would cost five points, with a bonus of five for throwing things. When you run out of points, your partner has the option of wiping the slate clean and starting over, or getting a quick, cheap divorce. This would back up the institution of marriage no end. It would also lead to some weird and wonderful arguments and explanations, and would make the whole cruel business an exciting game.

This is all straightforward enough. But by the time Parliament got around to passing it, we'd all be dead and too late for a divorce. Perhaps it would be simpler if we just adopted the divorce laws of Islam. In that faith, if a husband gets browned off with his wife, all he has to do is say, in front of witnesses: "I divorce you, I divorce you, I divorce you," and they're divorced.

However, even the followers of the Prophet can't win. A wife usually brings a substantial dowry to her marriage. If her husband divorces her, the dowry must be returned, with accrued interest. How would you like to say the happy phrase three times over your Mabel and have her retort: "Fine. But I want that \$2,000 Dad loaned you to buy the furniture. Plus all the money I made those first two years when I was working. Plus six per cent compound interest for eight years."

Photograph, Story On Walter Cook In CSAC Journal

An article in the CSAC Journal concerning Walter Cook is of interest to his friends here. The small paper, part of which is in French, is published by the Civil Service Association of Canada.

A front page picture of Mr. Cook, a former Acton mayor, is topped by the headline "Walter Cook joins CSAC at Ottawa."

The article reads: "The Executive Committee of the Civil Service Association of Canada has announced the appointment of Mr. Walter H. Cook as Assistant Regional Representative of the Association for Ottawa/Hull. Mr. Cook replaces John E. Anderson who formerly held this position."

Born in England where he completed his high school and technical education, Mr. Cook came to Canada eight years ago to work as Inspector at Orenda Engines. In 1954 he joined the Department of National Defence.

Both in England and in Canada Mr. Cook had long been active in union and association affairs. He has held office in various employee organizations and is a former member of the Downsview Local Council of the Civil Service Association of Canada.

"He has also been active in civic affairs and is a former Mayor of the Council in the town of Acton. In this capacity he was very active in helping to relocate employees of A. V. Roe who became unemployed when the Arrow program was discontinued."

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1940

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 8, 1940.

A new industry to Canada, the Wool Combing Corporation, will locate in Acton and have leased the building owned by Beardmore and Co. at the foot of Fredrick St. K. Markun, general manager of the new firm, is here now making arrangements for installation of machinery and equipment.

The new company plan to produce at the rate of 3,000,000 tops annually. The establishment of this plant will provide the only individual unit in this country. It fills a gap in the textile industry when it is most urgently needed. To begin with, the new plant will employ about 100 people and is controlled by British and Canadian interests.

Struck on the head and crushed by a descending hoist, James Sangster was instantly killed at the Beardmore and Co. tannery here on Friday morning. The accident happened just before noon. Mr. Sangster had been an employee of the company for the past 16 years and one of his duties was to clean out the pits at the bottom of the hoist shaft. He had been instructed to do this work the following morning.

It is believed he decided to look into the bottom of the pit to see its condition at the time the accident happened. He was apparently beneath the elevator gate and was peering down into the pit and failed to hear the hoist descending. An inquest will be held tonight.

During the business men's weekly draw for War Savings Stamps on Saturday, Mrs. L. O. Johnston was the fortunate winner of the \$500 award and \$200 prizes were won by Margaret Somerville and Mrs. F. Crump.

The second Smith reunion was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Davidson on Friday, July 26, when over 100 descendants of the Smiths of Nassawega gathered to spend the afternoon and evening. The afternoon was spent playing baseball games, after which everyone sat down to a picnic lunch including a large birthday cake.

BACK IN 1910

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 11, 1910.

Complaints have been made to the council of some boys who bathe at Corporation Pond trespassing on the rink property and even carrying away some of the boots and skates which were in the waiting room. Notices have been posted up threatening the trespassers with prosecution.

Mr. Ed Dynes has had a gang of men busy the past few days moving back the building occupied by Mr. John Gibbons, butcher, to the widened street line. It is the intention of Mr. E. L. Grace, owner, to put a new brick front on the building next year.

The dogs of Ontario will not be relieved of the muzzles which they have been compelled to wear since spring if Dr. Rutherford, Veterinary Director-General of Canada, has his way. While in Toronto, he said he could see no reason why the order should be rescinded and declared if he had his way he would recommend that the order be continued for an indefinite period.

A party of about 100 persons, including employees of W. H. Storey and Sons and their friends, picnicked on the rocks at Rockwood on Saturday afternoon. The usual visits were made to all the pretty spots in the area. A picnic lunch was served on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Smith and Acton Citizens' Band under the leadership of J. C. Hill accompanied the group.

The Acton baseball team went to Erin to play a game on civic holiday and suffered a 5-4 defeat at the hands of their opponents. At the end of nine innings, the score stood at four runs each and an extra inning was needed to decide the match. When the inning was over, Erin had tallied the necessary run, winning the game.

The first threshing of the season took place on Mr. Richard N. Brown's farm last Thursday afternoon. His fall wheat was threshed and yielded 450 bushels. It is a very plump, fine sample.

Acton's assessment 20 years ago was \$228,485 and the rate of taxation 22 mills. This year the assessment is \$426,770 and the mill rate is 21 mills.

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The Acton Free Press

Published by the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.
 Founded in 1875 and published every Thursday at 59
 Willow St. Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau
 of Circulations the C.W.N.A. and the Ontario-Quebec
 Division of the C.W.N.A. Advertising rates on request.
 Subscriptions payable in advance, \$3.00 in Canada; \$4.00
 in the United States; six months \$1.75; single copies 7c.
 Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Depart-
 ment, Ottawa.

The only paper ever published in Acton

G. A. Dills, Editor-in-Chief

David R. Dills, Managing Editor

BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICE PHONE 600, ACTON