

Editorial Page

Still Rising

The proportion of Canadian households which are equipped with the various domestic conveniences which are so prized in this modern age continues to grow apace.

The latest annual survey of such things carried out by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shows that 80.6 per cent of the 4.4 million households in Canada had television sets in 1960 compared with 74.5 per cent in 1959.

By last year, too, 91.1 per cent of households had refrigerators, 86.7 per cent had washing machines and 96.2 per cent had radios.

The percentage of households with an automobile last year was 66.6 per cent, up

from 65.1 per cent in 1959, while 7.4 per cent had two or more.

The growing trend towards the use of oil and gas for heating purposes is shown, with 66.3 per cent of households using furnaces, of which nearly 40 per cent used oil and 13.6 per cent used gas.

Two items included in the annual survey for the first time were power lawnmowers and outboard motors. There were just over one million power lawnmowers in use in Canada last year, representing 23.3 per cent of total households. Outboard motors were owned by 7.2 per cent of households.

The increasing acquisition of such equipment hardly suggests that Canadians as a whole are having too bad a time of it.

Equality is the Aim

Assessment statistics are sometimes revealing and sometimes confusing. Within a county it is the equality of the assessment which is vital to insure that each town or township pays its fair share to the maintenance of county facilities.

It appears, from the recommendation of the assessment committee to the county council, that there is general satisfaction this year with the equality of the assessment base.

It is now something like 10 years since Halton completed a major revision in its assessment procedures to develop the plan still used in the northern municipalities. A new plan, however, known as the DMA manual is being introduced. It is the expectation that use of this standard procedure across the province will provide an equitable base for distribution of provincial grants eventually.

In the reassessment of 1951 mill rates were cut in half as assessment doubled. That's why it is still impossible to compare mill rates across the province and come up with

intelligent conclusions unless assessment is also studied.

Burlington has become Halton's highest assessed municipality carrying 39.74% of the county load. Trafalgar, Burlington and Oakville together cover 83.79% of the county expenditures leaving Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Esquesing and Nassagaweya to share the remaining 16.02%.

Georgetown appears to be the lone dissenting voice to the county-wide introduction of the DMA manual assessing base. It is claimed they would lose a million and a half in assessment, which of course would bring about a compensating rise in the mill rate. In the other municipalities there is going to be some adjustment but apparently nothing as drastic as that anticipated for Georgetown.

We doubt if there is any particular honor in Halton having the highest assessment in the province but it is significant that all the municipalities appear to agree with the distribution of county costs and the percentage they will bear this year.

Time for Optimism

Spring is everywhere a time for optimism, and not least in Canada. With its coming, the national economy is now showing early signs of the usual seasonal upturn in the level of business activity.

Across the 10 provinces, manufacturers are rebuilding inventories, wholesalers are restocking, retailers are reordering and individual consumers are making those all-important decisions the sum total of which will be the biggest single factor in determining both the tempo and extent of the post-winter pick up.

Encouraging, too, is the first estimate of capital investment intentions for the year. Proposed expenditures are again expected to exceed \$8,000 million, a massive outpouring which will further improve our productive efficiency, stimulate economic development and generally provide a solid foundation for continued national growth.

All this, of course, is the stuff of which jobs are made. And the stronger the expression of consumer confidence, the more jobs there will be.

This second quarter of the year, as always, will see a marked drop in the unemployed totals as the tens of thousands of seasonal workers who have contributed so substantially to the high mid-winter figures resume their labours. Within the next three months, on the basis of the usual seasonal pattern, the unemployed figures will be cut in half, a consideration which should be kept in mind when the as-yet-unpublished figures for March are made known. (Last year, the number of those without jobs fell from 609,000 to 315,000 between March and June.)

The seasonal upswing, of course, does not of itself provide any enduring solution to the problem of higher-than-normal unemployment. The rate at which the labour force is growing and the unskilled nature of much of the unemployment necessitate the application of specific and deliberate policies which cannot be expected to produce results overnight.

Even so, any appreciable increase in economic activity generates a momentum of its

own. That of last spring was not strong enough to overcome the impact of the continent-wide recession which has persisted throughout the past winter. Now, however, there is strong evidence to suggest that the economy, apart altogether from seasonal factors, is ready to resume its advance.

The special significance of this year's spring upturn, then, is that it can mark the beginning of the end of the recession, provided that public confidence in the immediate future is not undermined.

The proviso is a vital one, for public confidence is the great intangible. To disturb it by playing up the bad and playing down the good in such a way as to distort the overall economic picture and thus promote fear and doubt where there should be none is to do both Canada and the unemployed a great disservice.

Not So "Free"

The announcement of a stiff increase in health service charges in Britain serves as a not-so-gentle reminder that that country's much acclaimed "free" national health service is not so free after all.

It never has been, of course. When first introduced by the Labour government a dozen years ago it was estimated to cost \$356 million a year, in the first year of operation it actually cost \$953 million. Costs have risen steadily until it now costs about \$1.1 billion a year.

Quote

Quote: "An educated man is not one whose memory is trained to carry a few dates in history, he is one who can accomplish things. A man who cannot think is not an educated man, however many college degrees he may have acquired. Thinking is the hardest work anyone can do, which is probably the reason why we have so few thinkers." — Henry Ford

"Preview"



—Photo by Esther Taylor

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY



There was the long list of things to do when I got out — pubs, girls and restaurants to be revisited, places to see, gifts to buy. There was the entire account, in tiny writing, of what had happened to me after I was shot down—a comedy of errors.

And there, tucked into a little flap, was something that brought me up with a jolt. It was a head-and-shoulders photo of a young fellow scowling at the camera. He was whiskery and dirty. But there wasn't a line in his face, his eyes were clear and sharp, he had a shock of thick, dark hair, and he looked as tough as a law rope. I looked at it for quite a while.

Then I got up and went into the bathroom and looked in the mirror. And I saw the deep furrows in the face, and the heavy eyes, with the purple hematomas under them, and the wispy, grey hair, and the general color of milk pudding. I looked at it for quite a while.

And I picked up my log book, with the photo of that young fellow, and I took it down cellar, and I put it in a box, and I placed a large trunk on top of the box. And just before I mounted the stairs again, I saluted—merely a casual flip of the hand—toward that corner. Then I squared my shoulders, pulled in my gut, donned a pleasant look, and, slightly favouring my authentic knee, walked up the stairs, whistling, to help with the dishes.

There were the excerpts from letters from home. They were horrible in their thoughtlessness but we thought them hilarious. For example: "We are sending you a free-year calendar, feel free if it may come in handy." And there was from a letter: "I'm going to have a baby. His father is a Canadian and very nice. He says he is sorry for you and is sending you some cigarettes."

GAD. About

Communication Changes

Once again, I am reminded these days of the many changes that are going on in communications in this little tin box I refer to as my home. I have not had a telephone for some time, but I am sure that in the past few years there has been a great deal of change in the way we communicate. I am sure that in the past few years there has been a great deal of change in the way we communicate. I am sure that in the past few years there has been a great deal of change in the way we communicate.

Here and there about town new poles are being located in the rear of lots. Much of the line work will apparently be underground on the streets. Some of you may recall the multitude of wires that used to line the main streets. Of course many of them have disappeared long ago. Some of us can recall the cranks that used to be on the boxes at the side and the hat racks that required periodic attention. The cranks that were on the phones of that day were a source for relief of tensions. Sometimes it took quite a lot of cranking before one got through to central.

We will miss the friendly interest of central in furnishing the scores of out of town games at the hockey season and the little community interest service that is not part of the new automatic but in telephone service here. If you dial the wrong number you have only yourself to blame. Such is only a portion of the price of progress.

I will watch with a great deal of interest the activity on the telephone scene in Acton this year. I reside in a good location to be a roadside inspector of the change. Headquarters for the tel-

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1911

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 13, 1911.

About 11 o'clock last Saturday morning, little Mary Lasby, the five-year-old daughter of St. M. Lasby of the Station Hotel, sustained a fractured thigh and painful bruises to the head and side, by falling from the balcony of the second story of the hotel. The little girl was playing there. She fell against a couple of the spindles of the railing, which gave away. She was precipitated to the pavement 10 feet below and was rendered unconscious. Dr. Ault reduced the fracture and she is progressing favorably.

Burglars broke into an Erin store last Tuesday evening and stole suits of clothes and a bag of sugar. Investigation proved the thieves had a sweet tooth as the candy counter was opened and some of the goodies taken as well.

The Guelph Y.M.C.A. campaign ended Monday when, at a banquet tendered to all workers, it was announced the grand total of \$66,935 had been subscribed in one week. The week-long campaign went over the objective set to erect a Y.M.C.A. building in the city.

Assessor Harvey, after a very strenuous six weeks, has completed the assessment roll for 1911 and after summing it up, is quite satisfied. It totals this year \$447,956 and indicates an added taxation to the municipal treasury amounting to \$400. The assessment this year shows an increase of \$18,186 over last year with the assessment on new buildings erected amounting to \$10,650. The assessor personally visited every property and carefully valued each one accordingly.

Mr. John Ritchie has sold his property on the south side of Lake Ave.—one and a half lots—to Mr. Allan G. Smith. Mr. Smith will proceed at once with a double cement block house on the property.

Sure signs of spring are the frost going out of the roads in the country and the opening of the trout season in two weeks.

BACK IN 1941

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 17, 1941.

Rev. Father McBride, who has been pastor of St. Joseph's church, Acton and Holy Cross church, Georgetown, has been appointed pastor of Sacred Heart church, Hamilton and diocesan director of the Catholic Youth Organization.

During his pastorate here, Father McBride has made many warm friends in the congregation and community who regret his removal but congratulate him on his advancement to a larger field of activity. Rev. Vincent Morgan of Acton will be the new pastor in charge of St. Joseph's church here.

On Tuesday evening, a number of friends honored Miss Jean Lambert at a social gathering and miscellaneous shower held at the home of Mrs. William Heavers, Agony St. Many beautiful and useful gifts were showered on this popular bride of the month and a most enjoyable social time spent with her.

During the council meeting Tuesday evening, R. M. McDonald was present and tendered his resignation to the Cemetery Board. He also had been told that Messrs. Hansen and Bell desired to resign. Mr. McDonald pointed out the improvements at the cemetery during the past few years and stated the members had served without remuneration.

Reeve Chalmers pointed out council's appreciation of their service, but Mr. McDonald felt the past council had not shown appreciation when insurance had been taken from him and placed elsewhere. He agreed to carry on until a successor was appointed.

The Lorne Scots Regiment has been authorized to mobilize for active service. It is understood the regiment will assume special duties, details of which have not been announced to date.

Quite a number of the Acton area boys have enlisted for active service and the Free Press is continually receiving letters from some of their active friends serving overseas on active service.

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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Standard Time
Eastbound
8:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun and
Holidays) 8:45 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 2:08 p.m.
5:08 p.m. 6:33 p.m. 8:33 p.m. 10:08
p.m. (Sun and Holy)

Westbound
10:27 a.m. 12:57 p.m. 2:57 p.m.
5:27 p.m. 7:27 p.m. 9:12 p.m. 11:32
p.m. 11:2 a.m. (Fri. Sat. Sun and
Holy)

CANADIAN NATIONAL
RAILWAYS
Standard Time
Eastbound
Daily except Sunday 6:44 a.m.;
Daily except Sundays 9:33 a.m.
Holidays - Daily except Sat. and
Sunday 7:07 p.m. Sat. only 5:57
p.m.; Sunday only 8:01 p.m. Daily
except Sunday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Daly Flyer at 6:10 a.m.; Daily Flyer at
Georgetown 10:00 p.m.

Westbound
Daily 12:30 a.m.; Daily except
Sundays, 1:00 p.m.; Sat. 1:15 a.m.
Sundays only 8:00 a.m. (Holidays), Sunday
only Flyer at 6:00 a.m. Daily
Flyer except Sat. at 6:00 a.m.;
Sundays only 8:30 p.m.

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