

# Editorial Page

## Thousands of WORDS Later

After a week of reading daily newspapers intensively (while on a holiday) some observations develop on a multitude of unrelated subjects.

● For instance it has become increasingly evident that more policemen are the only answer to cutting the highway toll. We just haven't enough sense individually to drive carefully and at any rate there's always the other driver that is completely unpredictable.

● There won't be a nuclear war over Berlin. President Kennedy is still a good politician and all his warnings and increasing preparedness carried a price tag that he wanted to get past his congress. We're not unmindful of course that Berlin is a potential tinder box but then it isn't the only one.

● Why the French have chosen to embarrass the free world with their attitude towards the United Nations on Tunisia is bewildering unless their position cannot be justified. Perhaps a better student of Tunisia than we could ever hope to be has the answer but it looks to us like De Gaulle is paddling down the wrong stream and we wouldn't mind having Canadian representatives telling him so.

● Better regulations around municipal pools to avoid drownings should be instituted. The old "buddy" system where swimmers group in twos is hard to beat. When a signal is given each swimmer has to find his "buddy". That way problems are uncovered while there might still be time to do something about it.

● From the half dozen different papers we've managed to scan it appears that Finance Minister Fleming lost face rather badly in the Coyne incident. It might not be enough to change the results of a fall election if one was called but it was severe enough to leave a mark on Mr. Fleming's record.

● Haven't formed any clear indications on the results of the Coyne affair as far as

the Senate is concerned but we wouldn't be surprised if it has gained some new strength. Many taxpayers have looked on the Senate as a home for retired politicians who served their party well. But in the Session recently closed the Senate proved it was no more rubber stamp in spite of a threatened election by the Prime Minister based on Senate reform.

● There's an increasing value in recreational facilities and with housing past the "boom" stage it wouldn't be surprising to see more and more speculation in recreation. It could be a good investment but we doubt if the return will be as spectacular as it may have been on land at the height of the housing "boom".

● While this is being written the New Party delegates are just assembling for their founding convention in Ottawa. It looks like a shoo in for Douglas as their leader though despite Argue's opposition. All the controversy leading up to the convention will undoubtedly be resolved amid a great hullabaloo. And incidentally don't underrate the future of the New Party. It's provoking a lot of political interest.

● Violence in the Hamilton dock strike is disturbing. It actually harms the cause of strikes in the public eye and the cause of unions generally. When tempers, often hot enough, are ignited by new sparks from intemperate there is bound to be distaste of one kind or another. And while we all talk about freedom of the individual, incidents like this make us wonder if such a state is not really only idealistic.

● The headlines being given the Mimico inquiry into alleged building by-law infractions underline the need for civic officials to tread their road of public service with scrupulous honesty. And if irregularities are proven the taxpayer will in the end be the loser with inquiry costs estimated at \$1,000 a day.

## Business Tempo Quickens

As Canada's business tempo quickens there are grounds for a "reasonable measure of optimism" for future economic prospects, according to the Bank of Montreal's Business Review for July, just issued.

The review says present business prospects are brighter than for some time past, even if nothing "dynamic" is expected in the immediate future.

The bank recalls that a year ago there were signs that business was slowing down and questions were being asked about the future. As the year progressed, "a downturn in over-all activity was confirmed and, while there was some improvement last autumn, this did not continue into 1961."

By contrast, recent months have brought a number of indications that the situation is

improving again, so that "in general an air of optimism prevails".

With a "gradual but definite shift from the experience of the early months of the year, and with a number of monthly indicators pointing upward, it is becoming increasingly evident that business is once again improving and probably has already passed the turning point," the review says.

This is encouraging news to those of us who find it difficult to follow the reasons for ups and downs in business. The bank in its report cautions that there is little to point to dynamic recovery but most of us will be happy just to know our economy is recovering. Perhaps the unemployment figure of 1961-62's winter will tell a better story too.

## Enough For Now

The Canadian Press quotes an unnamed Ottawa source to the effect that the government "has decided to defer joining the Organization of American States (OAS) but intends to play a bigger role in Latin American affairs." The story may be calculated kiting-flying, or good newspaper reporting; or a soft answer to President Kennedy's urging that we join the hemispheric association. In any event it is a course that seems best for Canada at this time.

The OAS is an alliance of the independent countries of North and South America. It is the successor to the Pan-American Union and, according to its 1951 charter, is intended to promote peace and justice and hemispheric solidarity. Since 1910, when the Pan-American Union was formed, there has been a carved chair bearing the name Canada at the council table in the organization's Washington headquarters.

There is more reason now than there ever has been for Canada to occupy that empty chair. Last year our exports to Latin

America totalled \$186 million. Many Canadian companies operate in South America, and through the Brazilian Traction, Light and Power Company, Brazil is the site of Canada's largest single foreign investment. We are also extending financial and technical aid to the new British West Indies Federation.

However, it remains true that our main interest in this hemisphere is our relations with the United States. It is hardly possible that at this time Canada could be influential in OAS activities, be independent in foreign affairs decisions, and not publicly quarrel with the United States.

"Canada will send an observer to a ministerial meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council in Uruguay later this year," concludes the Canadian Press story out of Ottawa. "While the composition of the delegation has not been announced, it is expected to be headed by a senior member of the Cabinet."

And that seems enough for now.

## The Acton Free Press

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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.

## Little Spooner



—Photo by Esther Taylor

## Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

When we got to the other side of the river, we began to get excited, as we inhaled the beloved scent of "pine country" once again. Even my dad simmered down and relaxed enough to take off his straw hat. By the time we got to the cottage, he'd be speaking quite decently to my mother.

Rolling down from the north country early last Monday morning, I couldn't avoid thinking back about those decades. There we were, pounding down the super-highway, doing a 90-mile trip in less than two hours. And there, in front, behind, and roaring past us like guided missiles, were thousands of fathers heading back to the city after a week end at the cottage, each of them as grim and determined as a chariot driver on the day of the big race.

What a difference a handful of years have made! When we used to go to the cottage, back in the Twenties, it took a whole day to travel the 90 miles. And there was no running up next weekend with anything that couldn't be carried on the first trip.

There was only one trip. He took us to the cottage when school let out, and he came back for us on Labor Day weekend. We didn't see him in between, and he was a much healthier and happier man for it.

We'd get an early start on the big day. Dad would be out about 6:15, kicking the tires of the car and filling the radiator with water, and checking his patching outfit. Then he'd start strapping and tying huge bundles onto the roof, running boards and bumper of the big '27 Dodge. By about 6:45 he'd be damning and blasting like a civil engineer.

Around 7 a.m. he'd come into the house roaring. "Are you fellows ever going to be ready?" just about the time my mother was getting breakfast for five kids, finishing her morning, and packing a huge lunch for the road.

After eating a hearty breakfast, he'd go out to the car, kick the tires all around once more, climb in and honk the horn every two minutes as a "hurry-up" signal, while my mother was doing the dishes, changing the baby, and putting down all the windows in case it rained.

We'd get on the road about 9. Three miles out of town, my mother would remember something that was indispensable. My Dad would turn around with a ferocious tearing of gears, and drive back, muttering something about cancelling the whole damn trip if we couldn't give him a little help and cooperation.

Dad used to estimate our time so that we'd hit the terry "right on the nose," as he put it. But he always neglected to allow for the inevitable blow-outs. So we'd tear down to the terry dock just as the boat was in mid-stream, heading for the other side. My mother would sit placidly enough tanning the babe, while my dad spent the next 15 minutes in a colorful outline of the character flaws of tire manufacturers and terry

boat captains. And that's only the beginning. Today's father is expected to hurtle over the highways, anywhere from 100 to 300 miles, every week end, so that he can go through roughly the same performance. He arrives back on the job Monday morning feeling like a bull fiddle that's been left out in the rain for a week.

In my father's time there wasn't much that could go wrong with a cottage. The toilet might flow over, but it wouldn't back up. The system couldn't go on the blink, because you got it from the lake with a pail. A hydro failure meant nothing when you cooked with wood and lighted with coal oil. If you got a hole in the roof, you put a bucket under it to catch the rain water, which was nice and soft for washing the hair.

Nowadays the poor, harassed devil who arrives at the cottage Friday evening after a three-hour drive is greeted by the news that the septic tank is not septic, the hot-water tank has burst, the kids have smashed the propeller of the outboard on a reel and "We're having a few couples in tonight."

The whole business is another example of today's man energetically wielding a spade at the digging of his own grave. In my dad's day the male was smart enough to work six days a week and have the family cottage far enough away so that he couldn't possibly "run up" on week ends. It's a wonder to me that there isn't a wave of suicides in the cities every Friday, about noon, all summer in these times.

## G.A.D. About

### Going and Almost Gone

The old Methodist Church is in the hands of the wreckers and its walls are tumbling down. The tanks are gant arms stretch skyward. The trucks are clearing away the debris and soon the site will be cleared of the land mark that once graced the job on Acton's main street. For years we used to give directions to strangers in town asking for the Free Press as their next door to the church but a couple of years ago we changed our location to larger premises on Willow Street.

When the horses and buggies ceased to be the mode of transportation for farmers, their wives and families, to come to town the church sheds at the rear of the building were the first to be torn down and removed. We at the office used to get many a note as some farmer with a frisky team made the turn into the shed at too fast a clip and the wagon whizzed, but the corner of the building that used to be a rice there that used to take the job but it was gradually reduced to a stump as the hills caps wore it away.

For many years the keys of the church used to hang on the wall beside the telephone in the Free Press office for the convenience of folks who wanted to get into the building during the day and most of the time the late 44

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## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### BACK IN 1941

### BACK IN 1911

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 7, 1941.

Following the resignation of E. T. Theford as town treasurer and tax collector, council called a special meeting Friday evening to discuss plans for a replacement. It was agreed to meet with the Public Utilities Commission and attempt a solution whereby both bodies would be centralized. Both council and the P.U.C. were in accord and a resolution was passed appointing Miss Bertie Speight as treasurer and tax collector as well as performing her duties as secretary for the P.U.C. The new system was adopted for the balance of the year and if satisfactory, will be continued in the future.

The weekly merchants' draw drew a large crowd at the Post Office Saturday and all but three names drawn from the huge drum were present to receive their prizes. Kathleen Findlay and Andrew Nicol drew the winning tickets, and the draw was made jointly by councillors A. Mason, G. A. Dills and E. L. Wright.

The old dam built in 1874 that held back the water which formed Corporation Pond went out Friday afternoon but it was not the cause of a spring freshet this time. Amos Mason, who owns the property behind Baxter Laboratories, has two new houses built on Alice St. not too far distant from the dam and as the land lies low in this area, he decided to steer the course of the water straight for the dam area. He has engaged a bulldozer to land fill and Friday decided to remove the dam forever. Built in 1874 by William Stephenson for the Acton Plow Company, the dam has served many useful purposes, and those who recall swimming in the pond will be sorry to see it go.

Mr. J. E. Gamble has been chosen as chief of Acton Fire Brigade to succeed the late Murray McDonald. In point of years on the brigade, the new chief has more service than anyone. Back in the days before Acton had a steam fire engine, Ed Gamble was one of the torch boys. He has been a member ever since and the honor bestowed on him is a meritorious one. His years of experience will certainly be a big asset in his new position.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 3, 1911.

Last Friday afternoon while Vera, the little six-year-old daughter of Mrs. Newton Hurst, was playing on the verandah at the home of her grandfather, Mr. Joseph McClure, Church Street, she fell off the railway and sustained a partial fracture of the right arm below the elbow. Dr. Gray reduced the fracture and the injured member is progressing favorably.

On Monday afternoon, Mr. Torrance Beardmore and four employees entered the car of the hoist at the Acton Tanning Company's works to descend to a lower floor. Inadvertently an employee previously using the hoist left the handle of a barrow protruding into the elevator shaft. It caught and held the car a moment while the cable unrolled from the drum above. The handle was released and the car instantly dropped to a lower floor. Fortunately no serious injuries were sustained. Mr. Beardmore had his wrist sprained and was painfully bruised. The hoist is one of the latest improved and is fitted with safety appliances but the accident is one which could hardly have been foreseen.

This "temporary" railway on the approaches to the Main Street bridge is still in place. It's been there for nearly a year now. When is the new iron railway promised to replace it going to be installed?

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Nicklin announce the engagement of their daughter, Daisy Florence Augusta, to Frederick Shelton Schoew, B.A., barrister, Calgary, Alberta. The marriage will take place early in September.

The first fall wheat to be delivered on Acton market was brought in last week by Mr. Frank E. Savers, Nassagawewa. He delivered 350 bushels. It was not a first class sample, being a little under the average weight. The price for new wheat is 75 cents.

The crossings on Mill and Main Streets could stand a more frequent sweeping. The oily dust which accumulates is not conducive to comfort and tidy foot-wear. Church Street crossings are also very dusty.

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

### MEDICAL

DR. W. G. C. KENNEY  
Physician and Surgeon  
Office: 415 Main St. E. Acton  
434 Main St. E. Acton  
Office Phone 76  
Residence: 115 Chertsey St. E.  
Phone 150

DR. D. A. GARRETT  
Physician and Surgeon  
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Emerald River St.  
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Phone 238  
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Please call Dr. A. B. McCarter  
TA 21351

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DR. A. J. BUCHANAN  
Dental Surgeon  
Office: 5A Mill Street  
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Closed Wednesday afternoon  
Telephone 148

### LEGAL

C. F. LEATHERLAND, Q.C.  
Barrister & Solicitor, Notary  
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Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
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Office 22 Phone Res. 151

### ACTON

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173 Main St. S., Acton, Ont.  
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TR 7-3671

### AUDITING - ACCOUNTING

### LEVER & HOSKIN

Chartered Accountants  
51 Main St. N. 212 King St. W.  
Brampton, Ont. Toronto 1  
Phone: GL 1-4824 EM 4-9131

### TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

### GRAY COACH LINES

### COACHES LEAVE ACTON

Daylight Saving Time  
Eastbound  
6:33 a.m. Daily except Sun and  
11:47 a.m. 8:36 a.m. 11:51 a.m. 2:08  
p.m. 5:08 p.m. 6:33 p.m. and  
8:33 p.m. 10:08 p.m. (Sun. and  
Holidays)  
Westbound  
10:27 a.m. 12:37 p.m. 2:57  
p.m. 5:27 p.m. 7:37 p.m.  
9:12 p.m. 11:32 p.m. 11:2 a.m.  
1:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and  
Holidays)

### RAILWAYS

### CANADIAN NATIONAL

Daylight Saving Time  
Eastbound  
6:44 a.m. to Toronto Daily except  
Sunday, 10:32 a.m. to Toronto, 8:07  
p.m. to Toronto, 9:01 p.m. to To-  
ronto Sunday Only.  
Westbound  
9:30 a.m. to Stratford; 6:38 p.m.  
to Stratford; 8:07 p.m. to Stratford;  
1:29 a.m. to Stratford. (7 days a  
week); 2:22 p.m. to Stratford Sat-  
urday Only.