

Editorial Page

Resistance Worn Thin

If it appears that merchants and businessmen have grown to like the new provincial sales tax, it is only because they have grown tired of complaining.

The minor technicalities have been overcome and the usual verbal exchanges about a cent for the government are decreasing as our resistance is worn down.

This perhaps is one of the problems. A government can introduce a system for collecting money and because we are so anxious to tread the well-worn path of conformity we gradually fall in line.

Someone came up with the idea that if purchases under \$75 were exempt it would reduce the total expected revenue only a small percentage. This would be an interesting factor, but of course when the provincial government decided to tax most purchases over 17 cents we feel they had two objectives.

Obviously one of these objectives was to raise money but we feel a second objective was to slow down the vocal demands for more hand outs from the provincial treasury. Consequently, every time we pay that cent or two of tax and express a mild objection, we're really voicing for less demands on the provincial treasury. It's about time too.

The major problems in the new sales tax however are the speed with which it was set up, without allowing time for proper planning and the difficulties it imposes on retailers and industry.

In some cases it has required a businessman to separate his business into two sets of books. In others it has necessitated additional help. In every case it has entailed more work.

While businessmen may have grown silent on the subject, it is not because they have become jubilant over the extra bookkeeping and work.

Educating for Export?

There is continuing debate in Canada as to whether we are doing enough to provide educational opportunities for our youth. Now it is suggested that, if we are not mainly to educate for export, that debate must take in the question of whether we are doing enough to provide suitable job opportunities for those whom we do educate. That point is raised in a recent speech by Stuart Armour, economic adviser, to The Steel Company of Canada.

From 1949 to 1960, in terms of constant dollars, public spending on education increased from \$307.8 million to \$916.2 million, or from about \$89.27 per average family to \$200.58. But if we are doing reasonably well in training our young people, as the spending record suggests, why must we fear that so many more of them will lack suitable employment opportunities here but will find them in the U.S.? The answer, suggests Mr. Armour, lies in the fact that in Canada we put too much emphasis on fostering the kind of industry that provides limited job opportunities.

"The U. S. economy," he points out, "is relatively self-sufficient and relies upon exports for only about five cents of each dollar of its national income. On the other hand about 20 cents of each dollar of the national income of Canada still derives from exports. . . . Perhaps our greatest handicap is the

fact that, having historically been to largely engaged in producing surpluses for export, we find it hard to think in terms of making our economy more nearly a counterpart of that of the U.S. Thus, instead of striving with all the means at our command to upbuild our domestic market, we still tend to look to export trade as a means of solving our major and growing problem of unemployment. . . . Nevertheless, the fact remains that we cannot hope to find overall employment opportunities, let alone opportunities for the highly educated or trained products of our educational system, through any foreseeable step-up in raw or semi-finished exports. . . .

"The task which confronts us as Canadians would seem to be, then, to enlarge our domestic market so that those who provide maximum employment, production and taxes are Canadian manufacturers. . . . If Canadian consumers can not get or will not buy the products of our industry, then we shall have no one to blame but ourselves if the export of educated and trained manpower continues to be one of our largest, and certainly by far the most tragic of our exports."

Hidden Shortage

That non-capitalist Russia should be plagued by a shortage of capital might seem a great paradox but that apparently is the truth behind Khrushchev's announcement, in his speech to the 22nd Communist Party Congress, of at least a year's pause in starting new industrial projects. And that may be the most significant point in the Russian leader's speech. Russia's shortage of capital, in fact, belies Khrushchev's prediction-repeated again to the party congress—that communism's planned economy would soon bury capitalism's free economy. Walter Lippmann, the able American commentator, has written a thoughtful analysis on this point.

"The Soviet economy," says Mr. Lippmann, "which is progressing spectacularly in industry, rests on an agricultural economy which is extremely inefficient and backward compared with the best in the Western world. It is backward as compared with our own, with Canada's, with that of most of Western Europe, that of Australia and New Zealand. This weak and expensive and inefficient agricultural base is probably the underlying reason for the shortage of capital. This shortage of capital is made up of a shortage of labor which is held on the farms, and of raw materials which are not adequately produced.

"This indicates where and why and how the Western world can and will compete successfully with the Communist orbit. On the continent in Western Europe today there is in progress a highly successful industrial revolution. In the efficiency of production, and in the rate of growth, it is more than a match for the remarkable developments of

the Soviet economy. It is demonstrating that a progressive economy is quite possible within the Western liberal way of life. At the same time, there is under way an agricultural revolution which, together with the industrial development, is putting the general standards of life in Western Europe far above anything achieved, or even promised, in any Communist country.

"It is here that the future of the Western society begins. Great Britain is joining the Western continent. The Commonwealth, like the French community, will become associated with it, and in not too many years we shall work out a close relation with it. All this will be something to live for. All this will come to pass as we shake off the nightmare that the world is going to be destroyed in a fit of suicidal mania."

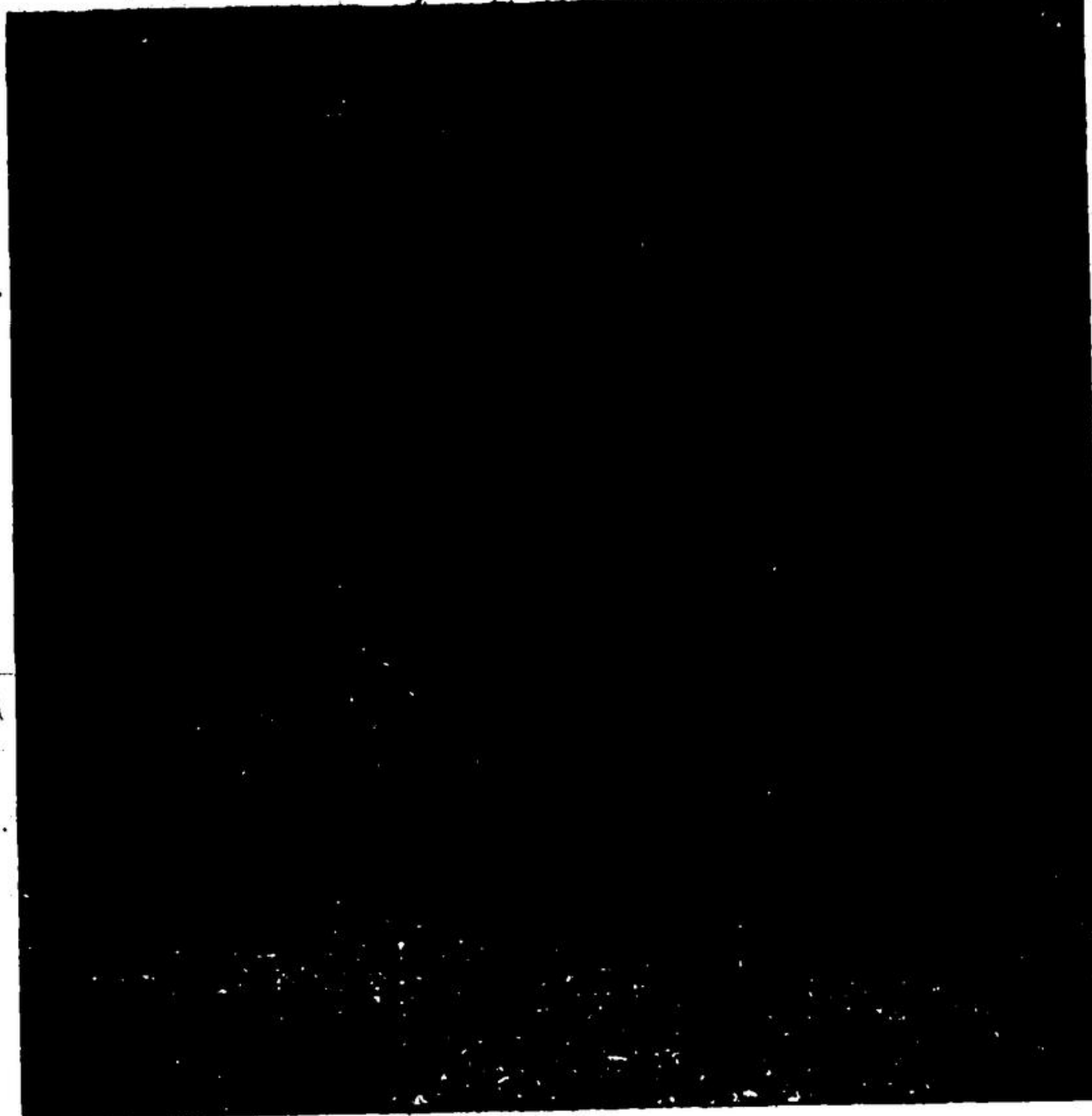
Safety First

Ontario having become the eighth province to institute a provincial sales tax, shopping is somewhat more complicated than it used to be.

The younger set, however, seem anything but fazed. The young man sent by his mother to the drug store to buy diapers, for instance.

"Ninety cents for the diapers and three cents for tax, please," said the clerk, handing them to him. To which the small boy replied: "Oh, never mind the taxes, thank you, my mother always uses safety pins!"
Ouch!

"Indian Summer"



Sugar and Spice . . .

BY BILL SMILEY

I'm not going to take that part about "a whole lot of nothing" lying down. There was also junk in it, and nonsense, but there wasn't any nothing in it.

The parson goes on to suggest that he'd enjoy giving me a physical pounding, as well as a verbal one. Careful, mister. I may be a 130-pound coward, but my big brother isn't. He is currently boxing a lumber camp.

Joking aside, you didn't really mean it, did you reverend? I didn't mind that bit where you linked me with harlots, drunkards, dope addicts and Mr. Khrushchev, but the next part hurt, where you said: "I recently read where a college graduate could not read nor write. Could it be that Smiley was his teacher? Any school that is foolish enough to have a man like him on their staff would no doubt have him in the English department."

Yep, that's where all us dope fiends and drunks wind up. I showed your letter to my department head, a gentle lady who has been teaching for many years, just to let her know what a viper she was nursing. She read it and grinned.

I liked the last paragraph, though, in which you said: "I wish he were a member of my church. It would give me great joy to have him voted out of the membership." That bit has the nicest touch in the whole diatribe, and I refuse to make

any of the comments that leap to mind.

However, dear sir, I'm sorry if you have been offended. I am sure you are a good man. I am not a good man. I am not a very bad one, either, just an ordinary husband and father, a broken-down weekly editor, a school teacher, a newspaper columnist, and a sinner. I go to church, but I'm not quite sure whether I'm saved or not. I rather doubt it.

At any rate, let's not be hostile. There's enough bickering in the world. Some of your fellow-townsmen have come to my defense, in your paper. I thank them, and suggest we drop the whole matter. I respect your sincerity. You must respect mine.

Rather than defend myself, I'll let this retired high school teacher, a gentleman and scholar, do it for me. He writes: "Smiley . . . writes not only 'sugar' but 'spice'; he appeals to the vulgar, plebeian strain in most of us."

"Personally, I don't see why a lady should be upset by mention of the final goal of sinners, or the verb that condemns them to it. In my view it is more revolting and disgusting to hear the English language murdered by semi-literate radio and television personalities."

"Smiley is not going to change his style. Good for him. I shall still enjoy 'Sugar and Spice.' Thank you, Fred G. Millar of Halifax, and may your enjoyment be of many years' duration."



It's not only the ducks and the deer that are catching it this fall. Apparently it's also open season on columnists. Latest salvo fired in my direction was discharged by a Baptist minister. His volley appeared in the Atikokan, Ont. Progress, which has run this column for some years.

Dearie me, that parson has a wicked tongue in his head. He can really dish it out. And when he runs out of personal abuse he falls back on a passage of scripture, torn from context, of course.

Herewith a few samples. The letter begins: "I would appreciate the opportunity to express my disgust over an article that appeared in your paper by one self-styled 'Romeo' and tough guy, Bill Smiley. This article was a mixture of trash and rubbish with a whole lot of nothing thrown in."

Now this gentleman man of the cloth obviously has me mixed up with someone else. If I didn't believe that, I'd be hurt. Me, a Romeo? It is to laugh. I haven't been out with a girl, except my wife, since I started courting her back in '49. Me, a tough guy? The same wife, who weighs about 108, can quell me with an eyebrow. I'll admit the article was a mixture of trash and rubbish, but

OSPRINGE

Air Land Problem at Meeting Council, Solicitor to Confer

Mr. and Mrs. Norman McKenzie, Linda and Billie were in Hamilton recently, where Linda auditioned for the *TV Talent Show* on television.

Mrs. Vernon Stewart entertained a few neighbors and friends on Thursday evening at a plastic demonstration.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. T. Urdell, Hillsburgh, and Cliff Norris of Eden Mills are on a hunting trip around Ignace in North western Ontario.

Masters Randy and Jeffrey Stewart are staying with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Theaker, Townline, during their parents' absence.

H.S. Graduate
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Aitken attended the commencement at John Ross Collegiate Institute on Friday evening, when their youngest son, Sherlock, received his graduation certificate.

Mr. A. Bullock and two friends from Georgetown are spending a few days at his cottage at Kearney.

Little Kimberly McCristall of Acton spent a few days with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Archibald.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Prulkama of

Clifton, New Jersey, spent several days recently with Mr. and Mrs. K. Klooster and family.

Mr. and Mrs. George Grundy were guests on Saturday at the Conn. Ferguson wedding at Guelph.

Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Robertson visited in Stratford on Sunday with the latter's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Oatley, and also attended anniversary service at Elgin Memorial United Missionary Church.

Mrs. T. Fines was able to leave the Guelph hospital on Sunday, after recent surgery, and is now convalescing at her home.

Mrs. Bert Sinclair of Ajax was home for the weekend.

An open meeting called by the Township council, to discuss a parcel of land, owned by the municipality of the township of Erin, which was proposed as a site for a Community Centre some years ago, was held Friday evening at the school with a fairly good attendance.

George Wallace was named chairman for the evening and Mrs. K. Stubbington as secretary.

George Grundy, former owner of the land related facts regard-

ing the land and is anxious to buy the land back.

Discussion followed both pro and con, followed by a ballot vote. Mr. Wallace announced the result, which will be discussed at the next council meeting and advice sought from the township solicitor. Parties will be notified by registered mail of council's decision in the matter.

Ladies' Aid
The home of Mrs. B. Clarke was the meeting place for the Ladies' Aid of Knox Presbyterian Church. The devotional "Finding Time for His Work" was taken by Mrs. M. Bruce. Roll call "Song with a girl's name in it" was well responded to.

Business included donations to be sent to Deaconess Training School at Toronto, also to a family in Erin. Plans were arranged for having the annual Christmas supper on December 15.

Mrs. Ellis, in charge of the program, gave a reading, "Rememberance Day Partion." Mrs. Fuller gave a reading, "The Poppy." The scripture lesson on the 12th chapter of John was prepared by Mrs. McCrae and given by Mrs. McEwan.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, Nov. 16, 1911.

While operating a wheel scraper at Bouquiere Crescent, on Tuesday morning, Alex Moore had the misfortune to receive a severe gash on his forehead when the wheel came off and the iron lower struck him over the right eye, opening a two-inch gash. The same day, George Joy fell into a vat at the tannery and struck his head as he fell. He was rendered unconscious and required medical attention. Both men are up and around again.

Jack Frost's extended visit of 48 hours, gave the water on Corporation Pond and Fairy Lake a good coating of ice. Skaters took advantage of the situation and donned the skates to enjoy the first skate of the season.

While tearing down a bark shed at the tannery this week, Mulcain Simcik all but had his wrist broken, and is suffering a bad sprain and severe cut. Apparently one of the beams which had been loosened, gave away from its mooring and clipped him on the wrist as it fell to the ground. He was treated at the scene by the doctor and after it was determined no bones were broken, he was allowed to go home.

Many readers will recall last year when the 20 year-old man from Halifax, stopped off in Acton during his 15,000 mile walk from his home to the west. A purse of money is being offered by the Halifax Yacht club if the journey is completed. Word was received this week, the young man has completed 12,250 miles to date and it is believed he will win the money for certain.

Taken from a Christmas advertisement: Take advantage of our Christmas suggestion. List of articles at reduced prices. Take your choice—a gramophone for \$15 and up or a victrola for \$100 up to \$300. A. T. Brown, Druggist. Quite a number of the children have been out on the hills sleigh-riding already and report plenty of snow for the sport.

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, Nov. 20, 1941.

Friends of Mrs. L. B. Shorey, now of Bobcaygeon, will be interested in knowing she hasn't lost any of her skill as a marksmen with a rifle. While duckhunting with her husband, she spotted a large bird that was thought of first to be a gull. However, Mrs. Shorey had visions of a nice goose in her roasting pan, so she fired and brought the bird down to the water. It was a wild goose and hunters report they are rarely found in the Lindsay district.

The Acton Volunteers' Civil Guard newly formed under the leadership of Captain J. M. McDonald, is holding weekly practice sessions. Last Thursday evening the men were joined by the ladies' division and spent the evening in map reading.

Word was received by the Public Utilities Commission during their meeting Tuesday evening that the Ontario Hydro would allow extra power this year for the purpose of decorative street lighting. The term will be from Christmas to New Year's only.

With nomination night set for tomorrow evening, it has been interesting to hear comments by many citizens who intend to run for office this year. No doubt when the time comes and the time elapses for names to be jotted down, the same familiar faces will once again be standing for election.

The heavy rains the past week and the bright sunshine this week have combined to make fall ploughing much easier and the farmers report everything in their favor this season.

The junior boys' group at the Y.C.A., journeyed to Toronto West End Y. last weekend and played a game of floor hockey with a team from the city Y. Although Acton appeared to be "swamped" by the first half, the final score was no indication as the locals came home with a sure victory.

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