

"Crunch"



Editorial Page

Prejudices . . .

Rumors of an election in, the offing prompt people of all parties to take out and polish up ready for use their political prejudices owned from birth or acquired. Everyone who likes a good argument (and who does not?) looks forward to the period of disputation that comes at four or five-year intervals in this democratic land.

Prejudices serve a double purpose. They fiercely satisfy those who possess them and stimulate those who do not. Oliver Wendell Holmes described a man of prejudices thus: " . . . he has good solid prejudices, that one can rub against and so get up and let off a superficial intellectual irritation, just as the cattle rub their backs against a rail . . ."

Prejudices are also self-propagating. To argue with a man of solid prejudice not only clarifies your own thinking, it also often forms your own prejudices in the process. You may, of course, call them sincere convictions, it is probable that some believers in protective tariff for native industry were influenced more by argumentative free traders than by Sir John A. Macdonald's

National Policy. And vice versa. Such is human nature. Such is the party system.

They say people used to have stronger political prejudices than they have today. If George Gallup had lived back in the seventies and had started his Poll in grandpa's day, there might have been few people in the "undecided" column. The thing politicians will be trying to do between now and the next election is to develop some healthy prejudices in the minds of the uncommitted voters. Every politician will hope naturally that they will become prejudiced in his favor.

Argument on a national scale, stirred up by people of solid prejudices, is needed to shake voters out of their lethargy. TV political debates would never have satisfied the voter of a century ago. He wanted the fun of talking back. The wish to and the ability to talk back are the very basis of an informed electorate, and that wish and ability grow when there is a man of solid prejudices in the conversation. Just one will do it.

Let the battle be joined. Let the parlor debates begin.

What is a Million Dollar Program? . . .

Federal, provincial and municipal budgets mean little to most of us unless we can get those millions and billions into proper focus.

The billion dollar spending program introduced by the province last week is no exception. There are impressive lists of accomplishments in the fields of education, welfare and provincial areas. There is the revelation of interesting facts like the one that 45 per cent of the provincial budget goes back to the municipalities.

But still it's a billion dollar program. And what is a billion dollars? For that matter has anyone ever seen a billion?

To really understand the provincial budget it is best to realize that the average Ontario household will be responsible for about \$713 of that billion dollar program. Last year the same household contributed something like \$642. Five years ago in 1957-58 the same household contributed \$535 which means an increase of almost exactly 20 per cent in the cost of provincial government in that five year period. The rise from last year is 12 per cent alone.

About one-quarter of your contribution will be made through gasoline tax and motor vehicle permits; about 15 per cent in sales tax; about 30 per cent through corporation and income tax; about 10 per cent in liquor tax; and 20 per cent from other sources.

Education, health and welfare are the big items and the provincial Treasurer James N. Allan has commended to the special attention of the legislative members these staggering and growing costs that claim 47 per cent of the total budget.

There is a tendency on the part of the average individual to read headlines about the federal, provincial or municipal spending, complain a little and then ask for more "benefits" from government.

We find it impossible to understand budgets of billions or millions but it is possible to understand the average household contribution that is up 20 per cent in five years.

And it is possible to understand that if we keep asking government to do more and more, we can expect to contribute more and more.

THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRY

"The Canadian Statesman" of Bowmanville, adapting a similar declaration from "The Peterborough Examiner," has this to say, " . . . It should be remembered that not only does industry provide jobs for the residents of a community, it pays a large share of municipal expenses, contributes to charity and recreation and is often one of the best customers of local suppliers. Is it any wonder that bringing new industry to Bowmanville is one of the concerns of Town Council?"

EXPENSIVE TRAVEL

The United States Government is asking Congress to approve the expenditure of \$5.5 billion during the next fiscal year to cover the cost of space exploration. It is estimated that by 1964 the space program may cost about \$7 billion a year or more than any United States Government spent in peacetime before 1936.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1912

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 7, 1912.

The young ladies of the town held a leap year party in the town hall last Friday and the gentlemen were the recipients of invitations. The affair was so pleasant it didn't wind up until midnight.

While delivering bread on Monday forenoon, Mr. George Statnam had the misfortune to slip on the icy pavement while delivering bread and he sustained a very severe strain on his left side. He has been confined to his house since but is gradually recovering.

The Georgetown hockey club are living up to their old tricks and failed to appear Saturday night for a return match with the local boys. The crowd had assembled at the rink but the Georgetown team failed to appear and no explanation was sent. The Acton team telephoned their willingness to go to Georgetown on the nine o'clock train but this elicited no acceptance. Seems as though the neighboring team are afraid of the Acton boys just the same as they were in baseball.

For years the driving shed at the Methodist church has been open to the general public and including the church members everyone is welcome to use it. Last fall the trustee board put in a cement floor and contemplate painting and fixing the shed up including new roofing. Some outsiders evidently appreciate the use of the sheds for this week William Gowdy of the Toronto Lime Company dropped in and said "The expense for the renovations must be quite high; here's \$5 to help." Again Mr. A. G. Claridge, dairyman, called one day and said "I use the sheds quite often when in town; please credit this dollar toward the expense."

During the council meeting Monday night members learned the Hydro-Electric Commission intended to start installation of the electric power to Acton just as soon as a contract was entered into and according to a letter it is the intention to begin poles to the area for use almost immediately after the agreement is signed.

Mr. James Symon has taken over the Johnstone hardware business and is now welcoming the customers of the store. Mr. Symon's father the late Charles Symon was in business here for many years and sold out to Messrs. Christie and Henderson about forty years ago.

Back in 1942

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 12, 1942.

Gordon Aitken received a head injury and Harvey Fisher an injury to his back as the result of a car collision on the highway just east of Acton Tuesday night. Both young men are from Ospringe and it is said their car was struck in the rear by a truck opposite the farm of Mr. D. D. Morrison. The rear end of the car was driven in and badly wrecked.

The first citizen to report seeing a robin this year was Miss Jessie Russell. The harbinger of spring was seen just after the big storm on Tuesday.

Some Rockwood residents had an uncomfortable time last week-end after the mild weather caused a thaw in the river and high water overflowed the banks and ran into the cellars of some homes. Heavy ice piled at Horton's dam caused the water to overflow and run down a section of the valley road. One of the timbers was raised to allow the water to run its natural course in order to stop the flooding condition.

During a special meeting of council this week the members received a request from the Wood Cumberg Corporation for permission to build 20 company homes in Acton. Both company and council went into details regarding water and light services, streets and grading.

Bannockburn Literary Society held their regular meeting Friday evening with Clarence Coles acting as chairman for the business session in the absence of the president. During the program the following numbers were enjoyed by everyone: instrumental by Mrs. Hall; solo by Mr. Sonette; reading by Clarence Coles and a mouth organ duet by Bert Watson and Russell McDonald. Lunch and dancing concluded the meeting.

On Tuesday afternoon Acton Continuation school played another game of hockey with the Rockwood school team and when the final whistle had tolled the score remained at three goals apiece. Referee for the game was Jack Kenner and only one penalty was handed out to Rockwood. The game was not as fast as some in the past but play was interesting. Acton goals were scored by R. Veldhuis who netted two and V. Masters who got one. Frank Fowke was the big scorer for Rockwood with two while teammate W. Dunbar scored one.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

OAKVILLE — Grade 13 students whose marks are not above the teachers' recommended mark of 35 per cent will have to pay five dollars to write the Ontario Department of Education final examinations this year. Money will be refunded if they gain a mark of 50 per cent or better.

BURLINGTON — Last week was careers week as 21 high school students took a five-day break from their regular timetable to move out into the business world for a week's work in local offices. The course was designed to give students practical training for permanent jobs.

BRAMPTON — The town wants a dogcatcher with a flair for weeks as well. The dog situation's so bad the Reeve feels it is "time the situation was straightened out" and added if a dogcatcher was hired, he could also double as weed inspector.

STREETSVILLE — Children attending the town's public schools "wear no badges of dishonor," principal James Flack told the Rotary Club last week. Black leather jackets, heavy leather boots, long hair-cuts and glass studded belts were by tough elements in other areas are not visible in this town, he assured Rotarians.

GEORGETOWN — Councillor Fred "Tut" Harrison wants a by-law to penalize people who tow driveway and sidewalk snow onto already-plowed roadways. "There's no reason for people to undo our work and block up the roads again," he chided.

MILTON — Mrs. Louisa Brown, a 95-year-old Halton Manor resident, has a fine recipe for long life that would please today's twisters. "Keep right on going — keep running around and keep dancing," she advises.

H. R. Force Acton Industrialist To Join U-K Bound Trade Mission

An eight man team comprising electrical products Limited of Toronto and H. Rodman of Brampton are active directors with the company and assist their father at the plant and in sales. Other directors of the firm are C. V. Force, Guelph and E. S. Force, Acton. Mr. Force is also a director of Steeles Wire Springs Limited, Guelph.

Mr. H. R. Force, who founded Force Electric Products Limited in 1929 in Preston has been a resident of Acton for the past 24 years when the company established here. About five months ago the firm purchased the former Graham Metal Products of Preston and the entire operation has been moved to Acton. Since this move the company is now in a position to manufacture gas ranges as well as electric ranges, refrigerators and hot plates.

The Acton manufacturer believes the association with other members of the mission will be very helpful and the trip a benefit to his own company as well as others.

Mr. Force is married and his only daughter Jo-Anne is attending Haverall College in Toronto

Sugar and Spice . . .

BY BILL GAILLEY

Have you noticed how the world is turning away from the idea that a hero must be a young man? For example, when the Yanks wanted to send somebody whistling around the world in one of those crazy capsules, they didn't choose some young punk of twenty-three.

Nossir! They picked Colonel John Glenn, a mature, intelligent, charming and handsome fellow of about my age. It's finally being realized that most men of our age possess these qualities, along with outstanding ability to handle a crisis under great stress.

As the years hurtle by, this has become gradually more evident to me — how excitable and nervous and erratic and just plain silly are young fellows; how calm, competent, poised, steady, reliable and sane are we more adult chaps.

Of course, I must admit it's just a matter of experience. The young fellow in his late teens or early 20's is inclined to panic

when he confronts an unfamiliar situation. But for the middle-aged bird, there's no such thing. He's been through it, or something mighty like it.

The man who has been able to reach 40 without resorting to drugs, drink or divorce is a pretty valuable piece of humanity. He may not be able to accomplish some physical feats as quickly or easily as the young buck. But he can perform a lot more mental and social feats, and in the process he can last a whole lot longer and finish a good deal stronger.

I'd like to see, for example, the young fellow who could have stayed with me last Tuesday, and finished as fresh as I did. It was the day my daughter became 11. She'd been promised a birthday party. After invitations were out, her mother realized that she had to take the other offspring to the city for a music festival and I wouldn't be here to run the show.

Guess who? Right. I was it. Planner of games, judge of contests, master of ceremonies, setter of fights, caterer, and general party mother. And do you think I didn't handle all those roles with dignity, grace, charm and warmth, not to mention aplomb and insouciance? Dang right I did!

Take some young punk of 20 and let him try it. Let him take over a dozen wild, squealing, sweet, silly, giggling little girls. He'd run sobbing out of the house, calling for his mother, after 10 minutes of it.

I'd like to see him acting as judge for the twist contest we held. He'd probably have given the prize to the kid who could dance it best. A mature man would never do that. He'd give it to the shyest, or the gawkiest, or



his bank manager's daughter, or somebody useful.

I'd like to see that young fellow hustle up two dozen hot dogs with the works, pour 24 glasses of ginger ale, whip the cream, serve the jello, light the candles and lead the singing and escape with nothing more than a few burned fingers, a couple of broken glasses, some wax on the tablecloth, and not enough nickels in the cake. He just couldn't do it. He'd be screaming for the Red Cross or somebody before he'd dish out the first round of red-hot.

Now, I'm not bragging or looking for praise. Far more interesting to all middle-aged men — that all middle-aged men are more diplomatic, tolerant, judicious and helpful in emergencies than are young men.

If this is the case, someone will ask, why is it that young women aren't battling to capture these paragons, instead of going around marrying young men all the time? And the casual observer will probably reply that it's because young men have hair on their heads and muscles in their bellies and music in their souls.

This, of course, is a superfluous view. As anyone who has pondered the whole business can easily see, the real reason is because these fine, middle-aged chaps, in the very prime and flower of their lives, are already in the toils of women who know how fortunate they are, and who are hanging on for dear life. After all, you don't get chaps like us out of grab bags.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

Professional Directory and Travellers' Guide listing various services such as Medical, Funeral Directors, Optical and Hearing Aids, Travellers' Guide, and Chiropractor.

The Acton Free Press advertisement, including contact information for G. A. Dills, Editor-in-Chief, and David R. Dills, Managing Editor.