

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

20 YEARS AGO 50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 24, 1943.

At a special meeting on Saturday afternoon of Acton School Board Mr. E. Smith, now of Rockwood, was chosen to be principal of Acton Public School. Mr. Smith, has ten years teaching experience and one year at Rockwood as principal of Rockwood and Alton schools. His salary for the next year will be \$1,600. There were eight applicants interviewed and the school felt fortunate indeed that they were able to fill the vacancy so satisfactorily.

Entrance examinations are being written today and tomorrow. Ten pupils are writing with principal M. Leitch presiding. Seven pupils are from Acton school and three from adjoining townships. There was an entrance class of 32 pupils.

Work will commence next week on another new addition to the Wool Combing Corporation plant, to include storage and a dining room. Since the plant operates day and night and many employees come from the district surrounding, this last named feature will indeed be a great convenience.

The Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.D.E. held a picnic in the park with Lakeside chapter as guests. Everyone had a wonderful time and the following contests were run off — time race, Miss Emma Cole, Mrs. J. Adamson; orange race, Mrs. Stanley Matthews, Mrs. George Somers; V.I.C. Mrs. G. A. Dills; KICKING shoe contest, Mrs. I. Harris, Mrs. George Somerville; skipping contest, Mrs. Gordon Currie, Mrs. Stanley Matthews, Mrs. W. J. Reilly; clothespin contest, Miss N. Kelly; Mrs. Stanley Matthews and Mrs. (Dr.) Culter.

Mrs. Harvey McCutcheon who has been with her husband in British Columbia for the past year returned to Acton. P. O. McCutcheon has been transferred to Edmonton for special training on the headquarters staff.

Help on the farm is needed. Register with F. L. Wright.

Harvey Walters is plastering the ceiling of the auditorium in the town hall.

Please tie your newspaper salvage in bundles.

The bowling green is attracting splendid groups.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 24, 1913.

The proprietor of the rebuilt Station Hotel evidently deemed the old-fashioned Anglo-Saxon name "bar-room" as having inherited some stigma or reproach. Over the door of the new bar-room is the somewhat mystic lettering "buffet." It is possible the proprietor meant to supplant the old-fashioned name with the French term "buffet" which is pronounced "boo-fay" and translated a counter for refreshments.

Complaints have come from various quarters of the unusual amount of noise made by the G.T.R. trains during the night. There seems to be a great deal more whistling, ringing of bells and blowing off of steam than is at all necessary.

The summer timetable of the Grand Trunk came into effect Saturday with slight changes. There are 12 passenger trains which stop at Acton, six each way.

An epidemic of measles of unusually virulent nature is in progress. The chief health officer says the disease is more easily preventable than curable, and much of the fault lay with parents who refuse to take precautions.

Contractor Mackenzie has invested in a motor car which is now in daily commission. Jimmie Smith is doing the country on a motorcycle he recently purchased.

The new school and the new bell, both already 20 years old, and the coming addition this year, are all steps in the onward march. The old bell has witnessed many changes in 50 years and the old teachers Moore, Ross, Little, Broley and McPhee with their scores of students could not possibly have imagined the changes.

A veritable mother in Israel passed away at Crewson Corners when the spirit of Mrs. John Murray took its flight. Deceased was the daughter of John Swackhammer, one of the pioneers of this section. She was married by the late Rev. Hiram Denny, the founder of the Congregational Church at Churchill. She is survived by her sorrowing husband and two sons, James A. and William.

Supper and Spoons ...

BY BILL GREY

Dominion Day is on the way! Let's have a celebration. It may be our last chance, they say. To mark it as a nation.

Yep, according to the gloom-pots, this may be our last opportunity to celebrate with our customary fervor that glorious national holiday revered by all Canadians: The First of July.

Such eminent hysterians as Pierre Berton are sounding the tocsin, raising the storm signals, and making like Cassandra. Quebec, they sob, is gonna pull out the confederation. All will be lost. Canada will become a banana republic.

It is rather a paradox that the groans of anguish emerge, for the most part, from the very people who devote a great deal of time, and a vast number of words, towards convincing everybody that Canada is already little more than a banana republic.

They are the people who have unselfishly volunteered to act as the conscience of this country. They are the people who habitually endear themselves to the people who hang, with embarrassing obsequiousness, on the every word of every foreigner who speaks of this country, its habits and its people.

They are the people who, via Dawson City or Glace Bay or Halifax Centre, descend upon our cities and act themselves up as arbiters of our taste, our opinions, our morals, our manners. Armed with incredible glibness and a facility with words, they are happiest when they are revealing their inextinguishable scorn for Canadian custom, cooking and culture.

A plague upon them all. In the face of their insults and insinuations, their sneers and their snipes, I remain a cool, happy reactionary. I still believe that the twentieth century belongs to Canada, even with an 11 per cent sales tax on building materials. And furthermore, I fearlessly predict that Quebec will never leave the confederation.

There are a number of good

reasons for my opinions. They are not just a lot of off-the-cuff ideas based on a pile of statistical evidence. No, sir, they have a solid basis of pure emotion and prejudice.

First of all, our politicians, while comparatively green compared to those of older nations, are internationally recognized as masters of the compromise. Canada, as a nation, has a reputation for horse-trading. She is not one to let any foolish ideal stand in the way of an honest buck. And this, I fear, will present the greatest obstacle to the secessionists of Quebec.

Second, our French Canadian friends, bomb-planting to the contrary, really are not wild-eyed Lajins, forever chattering cobblestones to hurl at authority. They are a little more volatile than our British elements, perhaps, but don't forget that they've descended from the rhinoceros, tough, logical, phlegmatic folk of northern France, for the most part. They are practically voiceless compared to some of the exotic strains in our population. The Irish, for example.

Third, they already have as much independence as they can possibly use. Don't tell me that a fellow in Riviere du Loup, for example, has any less freedom than I have. Especially if he's married. And I'll never forget a Canadianne I took out in Montreal one night. Boy, was she independent!

Fourth, the people of Quebec, should they pull out of confederation, would have to give up one of their primary pleasures in life: blaming every-

thing from the last two wars to the low penitents on the sacred Anglans.

As for my other opinion, that the twentieth century belongs to Canada, this too is based on a bedrock of hope, not a lot of all-ly facts and figures. The main reason for my hope is that the twentieth century is becoming more and more expensive. Pretty soon, nobody will want it, at any price. But Canadians will buy anything. If the down payment is low enough.

Leaving you with these comforting predictions, I wish you a happy First of July, serene in the knowledge that you will spend it as usual: Reverently explaining to your children the meaning of confederation; listening to fiery orations about our great Canadian mystique; dancing in the streets with your neighbors to express your joy; and decking out your house or store with flags.

And if you have to don water-ski to catch your kids for the reverent explanation, don't worry. If the only fiery oration you can find is Earl Cameron with the CBC news, don't worry. If your neighbors have all bogged off to the beach, don't worry. If the only flags you can find are a couple of union jacks, an old Red Ensign and a tattered Stars and Stripes, don't worry. It will be a good, average, typical Canadian celebration of the birth of our glorious nation.

ORIENTATION DAY was held at the high school Monday for grade eight pupils who will attend high school next term. Four of the pupils are shown in the science room with teachers Joseph Bray and William Patterson. Left to right are Ron McKnight from the M. Z. Bennett school, Mr. Bray, Jackie McDonald, Limehouse, Jake Pasma, M. Z. Bennett school and Mr. Patterson.

A Continuing Growth ...

Monday is Canada's birthday. It may be a little hard to realize it by the absence of flags and local celebration but nevertheless it was July 1, 1867 that marked the formal beginnings of Canada as a nation.

While July 1 is significant, the growth in nationhood has been a continuing one which a review of history indicates.

In 1864 delegates from the Maritime provinces had assembled to discuss a maritime union. The Union of 1841 having been frustrated by recurrent instability, delegates from Canada were sent to the Maritimes conference to propose a wider union of all British North America. A conference was convened at Quebec later that year to discuss the proposal and to make recommendations to the Colonial Office. Under the BNA Act of 1867 which resulted, Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were united in the Dominion of Canada.

The responsibility of the executive to the electorate achieved under Lord Elgin was limited to colonial affairs. Gradually the Government of Canada extended its control to Crown lands, trade relations, tariffs and other activity. Independence in foreign policy, however, was not achieved until the First World War, when Canada assumed membership in the Imperial War Cabinet, sent delegates to the peace conference at Versailles

and became in its own right a member of the League of Nations.

Under the Statute of Westminster of 1931, Canadian sovereignty was given final recognition. No law of Canada can now be voided because it is repugnant to British law; no law of Britain is effective in Canada except with the consent of the Dominion; all laws enacted by Canada have extra-territorial effect. In 1947 Canadian citizenship was defined as distinct from British citizenship; in 1949 Canada obtained authority to amend the BNA Act; in the same year appeals to the Privy Council's Judicial Committee were established; in 1952 a Canadian was appointed Governor General.

Undoubtedly we still have much to accomplish as a nation. Our growth in nationhood must be topped with a maturity that enables us to determine our national flag, our national anthem and our relations between one province and another.

Perhaps 100 years will mark the beginning of that maturity but we doubt that any specified period will automatically provide the answers we seek.

We have come a long way, this young nation of ours, but the challenges that lie ahead will overshadow any of the accomplishments of the past and it is important that we be in a position to handle them.

The Knott Case ...

Justice Minister Chevrier has acknowledged the particular injustice, and it may achieve more than that. The Justice Minister suggested to the House that it may be possible to devise some procedure to safeguard the individual against official error or arbitrary opinion. But there is the very real danger that acknowledgement of the RCMP's error will rouse such an intemperate hue and cry that it will obscure this truth: subversive activity does exist and it must be policed.

Already, even though the bungling in the Knott case could hardly be laid to more than one or two SIB men, the whole membership of the branch have been labelled "political ignoramus." Others have assailed the RCMP in its entirety. One newspaper even invited the opinion of Leslie Morris, leader of Canada's communist party. This arbitrary interference by police is something that has to be ended," Mr. Morris said, unexpectedly. "We don't need a political police in Canada."

It is a fact that some men in police work come to enjoy their positions of authority, that some try to do their jobs the easy way, that some show themselves incapable of particular duties. The same is true of men in all spheres — even in politics. In the matter of policing security risks, even with the best of intentions, there can be errors of fact or misinterpretation of facts. In the public interest there seems to be the need for an avenue of appeal. But the answer to the problem needs to be sought soberly and responsibly.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

GEORGETOWN — E. W. Bliss Co. of Canada Ltd., manufacturer of traffic signalling devices, road signs and industrial timers, has announced plans to build the vacant Sykes Tool Corporation manufacturing plant here. The seven-year-old, 16,300 square foot plant fronts on Highway 7.

WATERDOWN — A developer has offered council \$15,000 to buy the Waterdown Memorial Hall on Highway 5, with plans to convert it to a restaurant with liquor facilities. But The Review, in a front page editorial, opposes the sale because it is the community's only public meeting place and is used for a Legion-sponsored youth program. It was erected in 1922 in memory of first war veterans.

BRAMPTON — Free parking on municipal lots ends July 15 when meters go back into operation, the first time since January 1961. Council claims a contract with the Chamber of Commerce, whereby merchants paid the town to compensate for lost meter revenue; has not worked and the Chamber is behind on payments.

COOKSVILLE — Some northern Peel County Liberals have protested the recent county Liberal nomination meeting, charging teenagers and a nine-year-old boy were allowed to cast votes for the candidates. Organizers defended their action in allowing delegates under 21 years of age, stating they were accredited members of the Young Liberals. Their protest was not upheld and Ted Glista was named candidate.

PEEL COUNTY — A county-wide police force was proposed by a Peel Credit councillor last week, as more effective and less costly than 10 scattered forces. Ten municipalities and 10 chiefs of police mean a duplication of services," Deputy-Reeve Jack Plans told county council.

OAKVILLE — The Oakville Yacht Squadron has rescued the town's 1889 lighthouse and at a Saturday ceremony it was re-dedicated to Mayor William Anderson. Torn down a few years ago by a yacht squadron enthusiast, the lighthouse was procured by yacht squadron enthusiasts, moved to the yacht club property and restored to its original form.

Four Institute Members Hear President of A.C.W.W. Speak

Four of Ballinacraig Women's Institute members, Mrs. Leo Jamieson, Mrs. Jessie McEnery, Mrs. Robert McEnery and Mrs. J. Snow, were fortunate enough to get tickets to attend the greeting in honor of the president of the Associated Countries' Women of the World, Mrs. Gierda Van Beckhoff of the Netherlands, when 500 W.I. women assembled in a body at the O.A.C. Guelph, on Thursday, June 20.

Many more were unable to get tickets, which was very disappointing as everyone enjoyed hearing of her work and spending three months out of every year visiting other countries.

She said the W.I. is a marvelous means of helping these people who are less fortunate than ourselves. We are all women of the world with the same ideals — to have peaceful homes and happy families.

Mrs. Haggerty, president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, also gave a very fine address.

W.I. Discussion On Family Farms

Mrs. L. Trysenaar was hostess for the June meeting of the Greenock Women's Institute. President Mrs. Hemley opened the meeting with a short poem, "I'm Going Out." The opening Oration was given by Mrs. Mary Stewart Collect and the Lord's Prayer repeated in unison. The responses to the roll call of "Something I am wearing and where it was manufactured" were quite interesting.

Arrangements were completed for 10 members to attend the tea for A.C.W.W. president Mrs. Van Beckhoff at Guelph on June 20.

It was decided to have a family picnic at Terra Cotta Conservation Park in place of the July meeting.

Mrs. Wm. Johnston and Mrs. Gordon Leslie, conveners for agriculture and Canadian industries, presented an interesting program on these subjects.

Mrs. A. Gates read a poem, "Trinity," which was timely. "What about the family farm?" was the title of the article read and discussed by Mrs. G. Leslie. The feeling was expressed that there is still a place in Ontario for family farms.

Mrs. C. Aitken told of tests being presently made on milk contents in relation to different cows of the same breed. It has been proven that fat and protein content in milk varies with the individual cow. Consumer demands for higher-protein, low fat content milk may lead to breeding cows for this result.

Mrs. Wm Johnston read from Padre W. Young's writings, "If You Ask Me."

A contest on vegetables and plants was conducted by Mrs. Chester Allan and was won by Miss E. Paaren. Following the meeting, refreshments were served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. T. Hemley and Mrs. E. Patterson.

Mrs. C. Aitken was courteous convener.

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