

## Harvest Time



### One the Facts...

In almost any group of people, one can find sharply divergent opinions as the role of newspapers.

W. T. MacSkimming, chief inspector of Ottawa's public school, is one with definite ideas. He has called for more straight news and less opinion in papers. He believes people need more facts on which to base their own thinking.

Mr. MacSkimming is right when he speaks about the importance of unbiased information in newspapers. But he is painting an erroneous picture when he implies that newspapers are becoming more opinionated than factual.

Actually in a broad sense, the reverse is true of newspapers in Canada. The average daily or weekly prides itself on the publication of straightforward, objective news on which the public can base its own opinion. The bulk of the news space in most papers is devoted to the community, the nation and the world. Fifty or 100 years ago, the news was slanted. This was particularly true of the sheets which owned some form of allegiance to the political parties.

Today the average Canadian newspaper publishes news in straightforward fashion. It does reserve the right, however, to express its own opinions through the editorial

page columns. And more and more papers have columnists who write under their own names.

These special writers, as a rule, do not break fresh news. They give the background of news and offer their own opinions. The reader is aware of the fact that the opinions so voiced are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the newspaper for which they write.

The publication lines, then, are sharply drawn. On the one hand are the news stories. On the other are the editorials and the pieces written by the columnists. In effect, these three facets of a paper help the reader to make up his own mind. He may or may not agree with the columnists. He may support or violently oppose the stand taken by the editorial writers. This means that he has his own opinions based on his own convictions and on the distillation of news and comment he reads in his newspaper.

With such a policy of straight news and comment, the newspaper believes it is providing a public service. Its own letters to the Editor columns are also available to those who do not agree with it or wish to occupy their own particular soapbox.

### Manpower Registry...

It is a quite valid point that a major handicap in any attempt to deal with the problems of unemployment in Canada is the lack of exact information on how many people are genuinely unemployed and why they are unemployed. The unemployment insurance statistics are a poor guide. Many of these collecting benefits are not really seeking work; the list includes seasonal workers, people who can afford a holiday between jobs, married women and retired men who are voluntarily leaving the labor force or who would accept only particular jobs, and so on. As a means of accurately assessing both the employment situation and the unemployment problem, the Toronto Globe and Mail suggests the creation of "a national manpower registry."

"We need legislation requiring that every worker register with a central agency," argues the Toronto paper, "placing on record his skills and other related details. He would then be assigned a manpower number and card, which would travel with him from job to job. The information thus amassed would enable Ottawa to determine what skills are in the national reservoir, where they occur, what forms training and retraining should take, what skills should be imported, where transplantation of workers would be advisable. A clear picture of the genuine incidence of unemployment would begin to emerge."

Not to criticize the good intent of this proposal, but it must be questioned whether governments could efficiently compile and use such a mass of information, and whether Canadians would accept the degree of compulsion implicit in the suggestion. On the first point, it would require a vast new bureaucracy, to maintain an up-to-date record on the 6.5 million persons in the labor force. On the second point, and despite the modern politician's declared devotion to "full employment," it is not within the government's ability or responsibility to guarantee jobs for all.

Is the citizen a serf, a chattel of the state to be catalogued and inventoried and treated as a piece of state property? If there were a manpower registry, would there be a fine or jail term for a worker who failed to register or failed to keep Ottawa fully informed of a change of residence or a change of skills, or for an employer who hired someone without proof of registration?

Of the 6.5 million people in the labor force, about 6.2 million would find a manpower registry a great bother and no benefit. Much of the information would simply duplicate statistics compiled in the census or that could be obtained by sampling techniques. And as for the need of more exact information about the unemployed surely that could be obtained by improvements in the reporting procedures of the unemployment insurance organization.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### 50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the *Free Press*, Sunday, August 24, 1908.

During its quiet business, the tanneries are working on short time. Messrs. Shearman and Co. have a gang of men working at Fairy Lake removing stumps and logs. The water is very low and this facilitates the work very much. By the use of a winch, the stumps and logs are pulled out and hauled to the shore near the Aquatic Club House.

Dr. Anton Buck of Palermo, Halton's grand old man, who after 54 years' active practice suffered a paralytic stroke five years ago, celebrated his 80th birthday on Sunday.

The purchasing agent for the new electric railway was in town last week and purchased three additional properties, one of which was on the right-of-way and the other two seriously affected the fill-in on Church St. Mr. John Brown at the corner of Willow St. sold his property for \$1,200. Mr. Joseph Hall and Mr. John Barr, both of Church St., sold their properties for \$800 each.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Selwood and babe of Calgary have been guests of Mr. A. E. Nicklin, J.P., the past week.

The Bradford-Medicine Company has been holding concerts in Brookville for the past week. Mrs. Peter Savers and family have moved into their residence at the corner of Church and Frederick Sts. They will be cordially welcomed back to Acton.

Wasn't it a trifle cheeky of Director Wigglesworth and Lord Sachs to come to Acton to solicit donations for Georgetown Fall Fair? They certainly got a cool reception.

Misses Bertie Brown, Isma and Mary McPherson returned after holidaying at Burlington.

Mrs. W. F. Jiggins and Master George are with friends at Preston.

Mr. Alexander McKenzie, Wellington St., has typhoid fever. The temperature has been persistently near freezing.

### 20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the *Free Press*, Sunday, August 24, 1908.

To keep cigarettes and tubes going overboard and to support with donations various War Charities requires that the War Service League have plans underway constantly for raising funds. Last meeting, Mr. R. R. Parker was requested to organize a fair on the grounds and the Victory Minstrels will have a hand in the presentation, we understand.

Messrs. J. E. Gamble and Gen. Muselle, on behalf of Acton Fire Brigade and Acton Branch Canadian Legion, presented a cheque for \$401.76.

York Road Baptist Church parsonage, Guolph, was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Wednesday afternoon, August 25, at 2:30 o'clock when Miss Margaret Ada Franklin, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Franklin of Acton, was married to Stanley Moore Cripps, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Cripps, also of Acton.

Mr. A. Mason, Chairman for Acton of the National War Finance Committee, requested during the week a group of four framed pictures showing the Acton bomber and individuals connected with it at DeLafayette plant.

When Acton council met in their August session last night, councillors W. J. O. Oakes, C. Kirkness, F. Davidson and A. Mason were present and Reeve J. M. McDonald presided.

Permit had been granted to purchase the truck for the municipal utility and to be secured as soon as possible. The plowing equipment could not be secured before October.

A letter from J. B. Mackenzie and Son asked that the drainage on Church St. be corrected. The matter was left for the attention of Councillor Oakes and Chief Harrop.

The weed nuisance on vacant lots and some streets was discussed and Chief Harrop was requested to give the matter attention and have the weeds cut.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

**MILTON**—Members of Holy Rosary Church Credit Union are having plans for a chartered flight to Great Britain and the U.K. sometime next summer. To date about 40 have shown an interest in the plan.

**BURLINGTON**—The town's tallest apartment building—15 storey, 175-unit apartment, is to get underway this week. Cost is \$1,250,000. During the past month Burlington issued permits for \$1,136,000, including permits for 64 single family dwellings. This month a \$1,000,000 addition permit will be processed for the Notre-Dame Academy.

**GEORGETOWN**—Garbage collectors here are thorough, so thorough they even haul away a man's garbage cans. They were even painted a bright yellow color, the ratepayer complained to council. "A small item," he confessed, "but a matter of principle." The mayor promised some action on the case, and a councillor suggested if they cannot be returned, the council should buy new ones and charge them to the private collector.

**BRAMPTON**—Peel County Council has promised strong support to a request to have the county tidied up, from northern boundary to the lake. "We want people to say this part of Canada is a lovely place in which to live," said Mrs. George Dixon, chairlady of the Farmstead and Home Beautification Committee, which is waging a county clean-up campaign prior to the World Plowing Match at Galdwin in October.

### Realtor-Councillor W. Hunter Denies Conflict of Interest

Is there a conflict of interest if a county councillor is the real estate agent handling a piece of property the county wants to purchase?

Reeve F. J. Ryckman of Burlington thinks so, and said so at the August meeting of Halton County Council.

He singled out Deputy Reeve William Hunter of Georgetown, a real estate agent with property listings in the Georgetown area. When the county council recently toured proposed sites for the new tri-county jail, Halton, Peel and Dufferin counties are planning near Georgetown, he noticed Hunter Real Estate signs on some of the properties and wondered if it was the Georgetown Deputy Reeve's firm.

**Clarify Now**  
"I don't believe there is any trouble but it should be clarified in case there are any comments at a later date," added, Reeve Ryckman.

Deputy Reeve Hunter replied "at the present time I can safely say none of these properties were listed by me." He added that some of his sales representatives might have listings on the properties, but "I have no control over what my salesmen do" and he felt there was no conflict of interest.

The matter was allowed to drop. Meanwhile, the tri-county jail committee is working toward the day they can begin construction of a new jail to serve the three counties. Clerks of the three counties have been asked to compile data on population forecasts and future jail needs, as well as a suggested method of financing the project.

### Marketing Bd. Short of Money Ups Bank Credit to Buy Wheat

The Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board announced today that it has been necessary to re-increase its bank credit for the purchase of an unexpected heavy volume of surplus wheat early in the season.

"In an official board statement made by K. A. Standing, secretary-manager of the marketing board, it was announced that additional credit had been arranged through the use of 1962-63 wheat crop reserves which would normally be rebated to producers during September of this year.

**Collateral Only**  
Mr. Standing said that the use of the 1962-63 crop reserves is a being used as collateral to cover

## Sages and Spies...

### BY GUY OWEN

By the time this appears in print, I hope to be lying at my own table beside the saltwater swimming pool at the Manoir Richelieu, one of Canada's most lush hideaways for wealthy millionaires and tired-out weekly newspaper editors.

Both will be gathered there this week, the former trying to regain their lost health, the latter trying to ruin theirs, at their annual convention.

At the moment of writing, it's merely a hope. Between here and there lies a nightmare of car, rail and boat travel, with a wife and two children.

I have no doubt whatever that the journey will be an unforgettable happy composition of car trouble, missed trains, sea-sickness, forgotten briefcases, mislaid baggage checks, furious wife, and lost children. This is the way we always travel.

As usual at our place, the kids and I have taken the preparations for attending this convention with admirable calm, while my wife has been sewing and ironing and swearing softly since the first of July. I swear she'd need three years' advance notice should we ever decide to go to Europe for a month.

What really baffles her is the unpredictability of the good old Canadian weather. Late August can be reeking hot, cold and clammy, or brisk and breezy. Figure three changes of clothes a day for three possible climates, for four people, for seven days, and you have the measure of her misery.

This week, while she stewed at home, getting ready, I'm at a slightly different type of convention. It's a gathering of school-teachers. You wear a name badge at each. You eat meals at each. There are receptions at each. Each has a key word: "dedication" at this one and "grass-roots" at the newspaper one. There are interminable uplifting speeches at each.

But what a difference in the details! At our first evening at the Manoir, I shall lead down

### Halton Co-Op, Blue Cross Arrange Pact

Halton Co-operative Medical Services, which for several years has been handling provincial hospital insurance payments for its members, announces that it has now reached a similar agreement with Blue Cross.

Mrs. Roy Coulter, secretary of H.C.M.S. said this means that persons wishing to add Blue Cross semi-private coverage to their basic insurance may now do so through one combined premium payment.

The additional cost of Blue Cross semi-private coverage is only \$7.60 a year for a single subscriber or \$14.20 a year for a family. This amount includes a small services charge and covers the subscriber and dependants against the cost of semi-private accommodation in an active-treatment hospital, which in this area runs around \$375 per day. If preferred, the subscriber can also apply his Blue Cross coverage towards the extra expense of a private room in hospital. Mrs. Coulter also pointed out that the above group rate is a considerable saving over the premium which must be paid by persons submitting their payments to Blue Cross on an individual basis.

The provincial hospital insurance plan, covers necessary hospital care, such as meals, drugs, dressings, nursing and so on but only standard ward accommodation. The Directors of H.C.M.S. made the decision to offer this special service after an all-member survey showed that many people were anxious to add the extra protection that semi-private insurance would provide. The complete package offered by the county medical co-operative now includes hospital insurance (ward or semi-private optional), a term life policy surgical, major medical, and extended medical protection.

### Gas Line Unearthed In Ditching Program

Town workers were ditching to drain the lots being sold by the town on Mill St. East near the high school. During excavations they unearthed a surprise—the United Suburban Gas line, serving the M. Z. Bennett school.

They are pouring a concrete catch basin to catch the water on Mill East and draining from the school property to the swamp and stream by Wallace Ave near Warren Grove.

In cocktail my beautiful wife, enhanced by a smashing hair-do and new gown. We shall sip languidly and exchange funny wits with old friends, while a white-gloved waiter passes the hors d'oeuvres.

Then, unaided by dozens of handsome, young public relations men who want us to sit at their table, we shall proceed in stately style to the Lobster Thermidor and the Maked Alaska.

Things weren't quite like that at my first meal at the teachers' gathering. My dinner companion was pleasant, but not exactly exciting and by no stretch of the imagination beautiful. He didn't even get a new hair-do for the convention. He was my roommate, director of the technical wing in a high school.

None of this decadent dining at seven dinner was at five thirty. We washed our hands and went down to winners and beans, followed by a palatable, but not quite exotic, dessert of canned cherries.

At the Manoir, great public institutions like finance companies will vie with one another to provide pre-dinner

receptions and post-dinner convivialities for the editors.

At this convention, the only reception was a coffee-and-cookies affair at 9:30 p.m. and the guests paid for the grub.

At the Manoir, each evening will produce the small parties, followed by dancing and entertainment in the handsome casino. At this one, evening entertainment consists of a walk around the grounds, followed by a couple of hundred other lonely teachers who mix their families and ends with a coffee from the automat in the basement.

Teacher and weekly editors are good and useful people, and have much in common, though they often hate each others' innards. Both try to inform, educate and raise the standards of society. But when it comes to conventions, though I'll probably be healthier after the teachers' affair, I'll have a lot more fun with the editors.

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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. 1:02 a.m. (Sat. only).

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