

— Our Readers Write —

Red Ensign

Acton, May 22, 1964.
The Editor,
Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ont.

Dear Mr. Dills:
A recent announcement by the Prime Minister indicates his intention to lay before the House the proposal for a new flag for Canada. The Prime Minister has spoken of the new proposed flag as a unifying influence and the stamp issued on May 14 specifically speaks of "Unity".

I could hardly think of a more disrupting force in Canadian life. If the intention is to blend the sentiments of the French speaking section of Canada (about 30%) with the Anglo Saxon (about 45%) and the other ethnic groups readily learning to speak English, he will find he has satisfied none.

Moreover, a major change in the flag would fly in the face of our past as a nation. The Union Jack sent off the men in World War I, the Red Ensign in World War II — now it is proposed to tear up the past — not inglorious past — and to begin again. Naturally we ask — with what? What American of today proposes to tear up Old Glory?

As a political move, the proposed change is thoroughly inept. We have only begun to hear the outcry and there will be more — much more, as the sentiment evidences itself. Editorial opinion, when expressed, is against the change, as are the unionists.

In this area, when people accost each other on the streets and any mention is made of the flag, the opinion is all adverse. Some even fly the Red Ensign in protest. One wonders what the Prime Minister thinks he can gain by flaunting public opinion in this way. If it were a moral issue, it could be understood.

What he is doing is jeopardizing the party whose hold on a parliamentary majority is even now so fragile. What has the party caucus said on the matter? The party could hardly stand a repetition of the fiasco over the Budget of 1963!

Has no one studied in advance the feeling in the Commonwealth, where until now Canada has been regarded as the senior partner, even the bastion? We cannot afford to antagonize our Commonwealth partners even for such mundane reasons as the importance of trade.

Some years ago, I met a New Zealand friend on Front St., Toronto, on Victoria Day. Gazing sentimentally at the flag, he said, "Yesterday, I was in Chicago, and now I'm very conscious I'm in a Commonwealth country. I cannot explain it, but even the air feels different." In the light of the new flag, what should I write him as I will have occasion to do?

If we must have modifications of the flag, let us retain the Red Ensign and if necessary, put the fleur de lis on the fly. That should mollify the most critical.
Yours sincerely,
George Harrap.

HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Sir:
I am writing to you as a long time resident of this community with children both in and approaching High School. The latest controversy over our High School reported in recent editions of your paper, has again brought to public attention questions on which I have been seeking an adequate answer, for some time.

The information that I have been able to obtain has led me to conclude that a citizen of this municipality can either send their children elsewhere for their Secondary School education or try and compensate in other ways for inadequate teaching and disciplinary standards in our own school.

If there is evidence to demonstrate that the standards in our school are not low, in comparison with Secondary Schools of good standards, many of us would be relieved to hear to this evidence. If however, my own fears are correct I believe that it is long past the time for a shake-up in our system which will raise our standards. I hope that the people responsible for our High School will appreciate that this is not a "crank" letter, but rather a very serious attempt to state without malice a question which is bothering many of our citizens, a question which I believe should be adequately and seriously answered.
Citizen

MUNICIPAL ENTHUSIASM

Sir:
To me it is encouraging to see so much interest in the affairs of Nassagaweya. There has not been so much enthusiasm since the Liquor vote was taken. Apathy in the past has led to municipal officials holding office through acclamation or heredity, and this new interest is a very healthy sign.

Future meetings on the topic that created this fervor (the controversy over the new municipal building) should be open meetings and this new interest should be nurtured. If council have the interests of the taxpayers at heart they have nothing to fear, and should welcome every opportunity to show their worth to the people they represent.
William O. Johnson,
R.R. 2, Rockwood

Fourth Report Cards Issued During June

Fourth report cards for public school pupils will soon be ready to be sent home to parents.

At both Robert Little and M. Z. Bennett schools, grade seven and eight will receive their report cards June 5. At the M. Z. Bennett school grade one to six receive their fourth report card June 12.

Pupils in grades one, two and three at the Robert Little school receive their reports June 12 and grades four, five and six on June 26, after final exams are completed.

WRITER REPLIES

I have read with interest, your editorial of May 21st personally attacking the integrity of the writer.

Your tirade seems to have been occasioned by the tenacity of the writer in suggesting that it was possible for a member of your staff to commit an error in reporting.

I repeat that your reporter either by ineptitude or design and with full knowledge of the consequences reported certain statements out of context from the regular May meeting of the Acton District High School Board.

He made a point of reporting that improper screaming was the cause of the high failure rate in Grade IX however, he neglected to report that subsequent discussion revealed that neither the public schools nor high school were empowered to do anything about the situation.

The joint meeting of May 20th was convened to explore ways and means to correct this condition.

This type of irresponsible reporting and editorial policy makes one wonder if you are more interested in maintaining a public image of infallibility and selling newspapers than accurate coverage of the news.

To back up the point that your reporter knew the consequences of his actions, he admitted to the writer that he had made a bet with another reporter that his coverage of the meeting would be repudiated.

You also seem to take great issue with the fact that the writer attended an informal meeting with a member of the Acton Public School Board and several staff members on May 20th and that you were not invited to this meeting which was held to try and correct some of the misunderstandings caused by your inaccurate reporting.

I have no apologies to make for this action and I will not be dictated to in this regard by you or your organization on this or any future occasion.

In closing, I am most happy to state that I believe that some good has come out of all this in that we now have a much closer understanding with men of good will who comprise the Acton and District Public School Boards and their staffs.

Another cause for gratification was the reporting of the special meeting of May 20th which was the most accurate coverage of a meeting reported by your publication in some time.
Yours very truly,
J. H. Reid



ORIENTATION WEEK for new public school teachers is being held at both Robert Little and M. Z. Bennett schools but of the six new teachers, only four are able to attend this week. The other two will be at the schools next week to become acquainted with routine. Left to right are Stewart Cowan and Waterloo who will teach at the M. Z. Bennett school, Robert Govenlock, Seaford, the Robert Little, principal G. W. McKenzie of the R. L. school, Miss Donna Farrelly, Alma, M. Z. Bennett school, principal Edgar Smith of the M. Z. Bennett school and Ross Farrelly, Auburn, who will teach at the R. L. school. Not present this week are Edgar Traharland, Auburn and Miss Mary Golen, Desboro. The Farrellys are brother and sister.

Knox Ladies' Aid Donates to Church

Knox Ladies' Aid met in the church on Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. A. M. MacPherson, convenor of the month, presiding in the absence of the president. The theme of the meeting was springtime and the good thought for the day was Gifts from the Heart. All joined to sing the hymn In Our Dear Lord's Garden. The worship service was taken by Miss Minnie Somerville reading the First Psalm and Mrs. W. J. McLeod leading in prayer. The business of the meeting was reported a dinner for Thursday, May 28 for the Teachers' Federation, the help of all was requested.

Robert Algie of the managing board proposed the plans of the managers for work at the church and asked if the ladies could give some assistance. A very generous donation was voted to the board to assist in their work.

Mrs. A. J. Murray extended an invitation to her home for the summer picnic, generally held in August. Miss Bella May Roszell sang an appropriate solo Back of the Clouds the Sun is Always Shining. Miss McLeod gave a reading. I also Grow in My Springtime Garden.

Mrs. MacPherson read a poem by Edgar Guest, I've Never Planned a Garden. The meeting closed with singing the hymn Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us and The Mizpah Prayer. A contest was enjoyed with a mysterious dinner menu with Miss Roszell winning the prize. A social time was held at the close and a vote of thanks tendered.

MAY WE REMIND YOU
That it is time to let us
CLEAN and STORE those VALUABLE WINTER GARMENTS
FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS
FOR SAFE, INSURED, LOW COST STORAGE SERVICE
PHONE ...
CUSTOM CLEANERS
Same Day Service Except Saturday
In by 10 a.m. Out by 5 p.m.
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URGE YOU TO
Test the Best
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MILTON CALL 878-6949

Citizens of Acton and District
ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN
DECORATION DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 7th
3 P.M. AT FAIRVIEW CEMETERY
PARADE FORMS UP AT 2.15 P.M. AND LEAVES FELLOW ST. AT 2.30

Decoration Day, (sponsored by His Worship, The Mayor and Members of the Council of the Town of Acton, The Canadian Legion, Women's Institutes, Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, Acton Fire Dept., Duke of Devonshire and Lakeside Chapters I.O.D.E., Acton Citizens' Band, L.O.L. 467 and Acton Lions Club) is designed to honor the dead of two World Wars by placing wreaths and flowers at Fairview Cemetery, St. Joseph's Cemetery and Pioneer Cemetery. Citizens are invited to participate in the ceremony and at the same time decorate the graves of their own loved ones.

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ACTON

LEDGER'S
REMEMBER TO PICK UP OUR HANDBILL THIS WEEK
BARGAINS GALORE
—Extra Special—
CANADA NO. 1 GRADE P.E.I.
POTATOES
10 LB. BAG ONLY
49¢
WITH A \$4.00 FREE BONUS TAPE
With the Purchase of \$3.00 or Over

Tots Register In Kindergarten

Enrolment at both public schools for kindergarten next year have been pouring in. Principals Elmer Smith and G. W. McKenzie are reviewing the applications in order to set up an orientation day for parents and child. At the Robert Little enrolment to date is higher than the same time last year with 55 applications received and more expected. At the M. Z. Bennett school approximately the same number has been received.

No Power

A limb blown off a tree at the home of Rev. V. J. Morgan Sunday night disrupted power service in one section of town for over half an hour Sunday evening. The short circuit caused by the tree branches caused the circuit breakers to open at No. 2 substation, plunging the portion of town served by it into darkness. The hydro crew under Supt. Doug Mason wheeled out the aerial device and were able to remove the branch and restore power and then the candles were all blown out.

DECORATION DAY COMMITTEE
ANNOUNCES
PARADE with THREE BANDS
ON
SUNDAY, JUNE 7th
PARADE STARTS AT 2.30 P.M. FROM FELLOW ST.
● DECORATION SERVICE ●
FAIRVIEW CEMETERY AT 3.00 P.M.
Followed by decorating of graves at Fairview, Pioneer and Dublin Cemeteries

SHOWER

you can heat water electrically
SIX TIMES
as fast as average use demands
with the new
Cascade 40
ELECTRIC WATER HEATING APPLIANCE
"Cascade 40" is flameless, clean, silent. And there is a ten year guarantee on the tank.
\$99 NOW INSTALLS A FLAT RATE WATER HEATER
In Easy Installments of 12 Mos. at \$8.75 per month 24 Mos. at \$4.26 per month
FOR DETAILS CALL
Acton Hydro Electric Commission
3 ELGIN ST. N. 853-2410

—Steel framework has arrived for the new addition at Acton District High School and workmen are being kept busy with construction.

—Apparently Magistrate Black is taking as dim a view as some others of the "punk" driving that involves squealing tires and erratic courses. In court last week, he warned he had a simple solution to the problem — in created penalties. That was after he had proven it by handing out a penalty of 20 days and a year's license suspension on a charge of careless driving. No doubt local tire-squealers have heard about this action and warning by now. News like that travels quickly.

—In case you have wondered what the helicopter, hovering over town this week was doing, it was a helicopter from Spartan Air Services, taking aerial views of the Hufnagel farm on Main St. North. Council is considering purchasing the property for future industrial development.

—Town workmen tore up the pavement in front of Watson's Restaurant Wednesday in order to repair a leak in the shut-off valve in the town water system.

—Warm weather, rain and sunshine have the grass growing so fast in the park. Roy Arnott can hardly keep ahead of it.

—At Rotary Club Tuesday, the old and new executives met to look ahead over the coming year.

—Fashion show by home economics classes at the high school this afternoon. Pictures and report next week.

—Grade 13 students presented a knitted baby set to their form teacher, Bill Coats, this week, for his new baby girl.

—A Milton man and two Hamilton men, who suddenly decided they should drive to Ottawa, and see the P.M. about the flag issue, drove down one day this week and had a cordial reception in a corridor from Mr. Pearson "for about eight minutes." Mr. Pearson was subsequently late appearing in the House. The men told him they thought there should be a vote. Dr. Harley was away in Banff.

—Inexperienced young bicycle riders seem to be more of a menace on the roads than ever.