

A direction for education

The Ontario Government's plan to establish a County Board of Education by January 1, 1969 and abolish all the present school boards gets a warm reception here.

It is now over a year since the Plunkett Report suggested two boards of education for the north and south municipalities he would have created out of Peel and Halton. Just exactly a year ago county school boards and boards of education were discussing the merits of this proposal.

The County Consultative Committee of Education reported subsequently in favor of a single-tier county board of education. The proposal, however, got no support from the large municipalities to the south who already operate under boards of education. They pressed for a two-tier system and appeared unwilling to alter any of their current organization.

The Province is to be credited for finally taking some initiative and providing some direction. The impracticality of some of the current arrangement is best reflected to us in the fact that students living within walking distance of the Milton High School must travel by bus a number of miles south to an Oakville or Burlington school because they reside in that municipality.

There are other glaring problems magnified by the costly equipment required for the increasing number of specialized courses being offered at the high school level. Maximum use of such equipment is desirable and may

much more readily be possible if the existing boundary lines are removed and no longer obstruct the interchange of students.

To those students who live in the less populous areas of the north of the county, it may be possible for them to benefit from some of the specialized services which would not otherwise be available to them because of the smaller number of them requiring this kind of help.

We can foresee difficulties, too. Those elected to the County Board of Education will have to be exceedingly competent and avoid parochial-type thinking. The Board will require an extremely competent staff to administer the system that will involve so many thousands of children. They will have to be constantly mindful of the need to equalize educational opportunities throughout the county. We think there are people in Halton who are big enough for the task.

Residents will have to be realistic, too. Representatives on the Board will reflect the population of the areas, and while those in the north may cringe a little at the small number of representatives they will be able to have on the Board, they will have to understand the ratio is realistic.

It would be unrealistic to suggest there will be any saving in taxes. Education is expensive and will become more so. The one hope for the system is that its efficiency may permit the utmost value from every dollar spent.



C.W. JEFFERYS

From the Imperial Oil Collection

SAMUEL HEARNE on his journey to the Coppermine, 1770. He was the first man to reach the Arctic overland from Hudson Bay. After working for three years as a mate on the ships of the Hudson's Bay Company, young Hearne was given command of the company's exploring expeditions inland from Hudson Bay. It was from Fort Prince of Wales at the mouth of the Churchill River on Hudson Bay, that Hearne set out in 1770 on one of the most remarkable journeys ever made. From the Indians Hearne had heard of hills "composed of copper all in handy lumps like heaps of pebbles". Accompanied by Chief Matonabee and a group of

Chipewyans he reached the mouth of the Coppermine River on the Arctic Ocean after an eight-month trek. The company had hoped to establish a permanent shipping port on the Arctic but this idea was quashed when Hearne saw the great ice-packs stretching from shore to horizon. He found no hills of copper, but only one recognizable piece of ore in an area that is now being explored by modern methods. Hearne discovered Great Slave Lake on the return journey. In all he covered 1700 miles of some of the bleakest territory in Canada. Parts of his trail have yet to be trodden by any other white men.

Free Press Editorial Page

Antique system

We, like a columnist in the Milton Canadian Champion, wonder why the Township of Esquering allows only one week from nomination to election day.

It hardly gives a new candidate for office time to shake hands with his neighbors before he's forced to stand the scrutiny of people who may have heard of him but certainly wouldn't vote for him without some form of personal contact.

For the professional politician who has a campaign set up prior to nomination day and can simply turn it on when he wills, the antique system would be fully exploited. We doubt, however, if Esquering ratepayers get sufficient time to know their candidates under the circumstances.

The system gives a decided advantage to the incumbent council and school board members who are already

well known by dint of activities through the preceding year. A newcomer, unless he's extremely gregarious, doesn't have much of a chance.

The township could be the loser under the system, downgrading talented, public spirited citizens before they are well acquainted. With so many people moving into the township from "outside", the system perpetuates the old guard mentality of some.

Since Esquering is one of the few places to have an election this year there is much interest in what they do both here and in neighboring townships.

We'd like to congratulate Councilor Tom Hill on his acclamation as deputy-reeve and wish the candidates for reeve, council and school board the best for '68.

Tax responsibility shifts

The new county boards of education proposed for 1969 will be required to issue their own tax bills, according to Premier John Robarts.

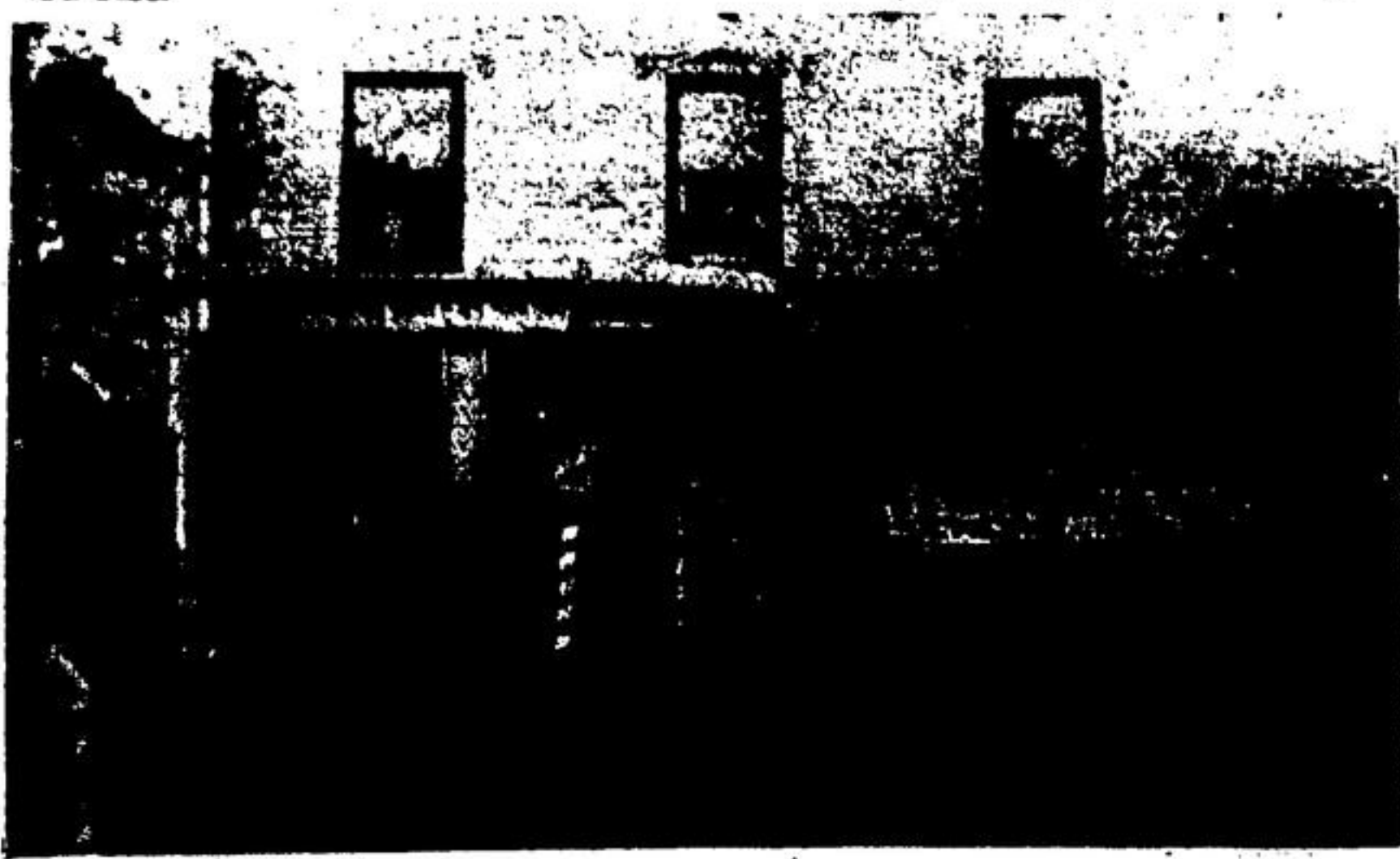
This is a valid step providing it is possible to arrange the mechanics of this in the most efficient manner. For too long the provision of funds for education has been a source of conflict and confusion between municipal councils and school boards. The total tax bill has been blamed on the councils and education's percentage of the total has increased dramatically. Now boards of education and school boards will be publicly responsible for their

expenditures and the citizens will have recourse if they are unhappy.

It also makes it possible for the Boards to offer substantiating evidence on expenditures directly to the people without running into the roadblocks the municipal councillors, more politically oriented, can erect.

The Premier has indicated the government will increase school grants to help set up the new units, but if these are to be the "carrot-on-a-stick" type of inducements for the purposes of organization only, the people of the province will be unhappy.

Centennial Picture Gallery



HALLOWEEN WAS more trick than treat about 1905! The morning of November 1 showed these articles piled neatly in front of the Free Press office on Mill St. Liquor bottles were piled for the

special benefit of strict, teetotaling editor H. P. Moore. The lads at the left — should they be identified — are no doubt innocent. Herb Ritchie lent the picture.



Sugar and Spice

by Bill Smiley

Just a few observations on life in general, this week. I have no particular theme in mind, but it will probably have emerged by the time we've finished this chore (me writing, you reading).

It's fashionable to attack the Yanks, so here goes. I think they're giving us a bum deal in merchandise. If I were a politician, my platform would be, "Let's fortify the border!"

Every year, we send them about 80 percent of our best people: artists of all kinds, university professors, engineers. Better known as the Brain Drain. And every winter, we send them our rich people, hundreds of thousands, to bolster the sagging economies of Florida and California. And what do they send us? Draft dodgers.

Deer hunting. A lot of people are against it. Not me. In fact, if I weren't a teacher, I'd take a week off every fall and join the great slaughter of the deer.

Slaughter? There are 10 times as many people killed on the highways as there are deer in the bush. If I thought the species would be wiped out (deer, not people), I'd fight it. But the deer populations is increasing, chiefly because there are so many lousy hunters.

I admit that no completely sane mangoes deer hunting. Why would anybody go into the woods in the worst weather of the year, wind and snow, rain and blow, to wander through miles of swamp and slash, swale and burn, dragging a dirty great musket and straining his heart when he could be sitting at home watching a football game on TV?

Why? I'll tell you. Because it's the only place in the world where he can escape from committee meetings, a nagging wife, a shrilling telephone, and rotten kids with personality defects.

It's the only place in the world where he can get back to the primitive pleasures of man: rude jokes around the fire; a sense of companionship that has nothing to do with money or position; the feeling of battle against the elements; the absence of all stress except the physical; the eating of half-burned meat; the belching and breaking of wind; the dreamless sleep of an animal after a day of exhaustion.

The killing of the deer is unimportant. He has proved to himself, by George, that there's a little juice in the old carcass yet, that he can take it without whining, and that he's liked for himself, not because he can do something for somebody.

This brings us, by a logical association of ideas, to modern theatre. It's concerned with the very same thing: a man trying to prove himself. The deer hunter would laugh at the playwright, and the playwright

would laugh at the deer hunter. Each would think the other was emotionally crippled.

I saw a play last weekend that would have made my little old mother's hair stand on end. Even though she wouldn't have understood it. It is called Fortune and Men's Eyes. Some of the language was straight off the walls of a public lavatory.

It's a play that will shock and sicken some people. And perhaps this is not a bad idea. It has pathos and a macabre humor. But lavatory walls are a part of life. There is no sand to put your head in. Only the toilet bowl. And, while this is one way of washing your hair, it is not highly recommended.

This again by a logical association of ideas, brings us to hair. Hair on head is good. We'll agree to that. The balding man suffers. The balding woman dies a thousand deaths. Hair on legs is good if you're a man, bad if you're a girl. Same with arms. Chest? No question. How about armpits?

Armpits take us back to deer hunters, and deer hunters to draft dodgers, so the circle is almost complete.

And my students, when I give them an essay to write, say, "But sir, what can I write about?" Answer: if you want to be a writer, write.

The reason I'm a bit misanthropic this week is that it's snowing. I hate snow.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 27, 1947.

The nomination meeting was well-attended but there were not as many nominations as usual, and all offices were filled by acclamation. Reeve F.J. McCutcheon was returned and W.J. Coon will be Acton's first deputy-reeve. Councillors will be Fred Davison, Alex McInnes, William J. McLeod, Public Utilities Commission, C. M. Hansen, school board John Chapman Sr., Norman Baird and R.F. Bean.

On Monday the vote will be taken on the Band Tax By-law at the town hall and Y.M.C.A. Many at the meeting spoke to endorse the by-law.

Mr. Amos Mason, who has been Councillor, Reeve and Warden of the county was chairman for the meeting.

Reeve McCutcheon said the past year had shown the greatest growth of any year in the history of Acton. Over 6,000 feet of watermain had been laid, 27 services installed, Warren Grove was making progress. The County Health Unit took \$10,000 to get started but is now doing the work of the local Medical Officer of Health. He urged everyone to support the band tax by-law.

After conserving metal for war purposes, there are now to be two license plates issued again for each vehicle.

Five of the newest type of knitting machines have been installed at Mason Knitting Co. They have greater speed and automatic attachments.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 29, 1917.

Acton marked the big victory at the front when the British and Canadian troops pushed back the strongly fortified Hindenburg line for miles last Friday at noon vociferously. The ringing of bells, blowing of whistles, tooting of horns, shouting of school children, created quite a noisy exuberance. Many who were unaware of the cause of the outburst were rather alarmed until explanations were volunteered.

Mr. W. Woodcock, who has conducted the bakery business on Church St. and who has been drafted for overseas service, has disposed of his business to M. Edwards and Co. Mrs. Edwards was connected with the business of her father, Mr. Thomas Statman, for years and is well qualified to superintend it.

The Knox Church choir were very hospitably entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Symon, Willow St. The happy event was in honor of Miss Wilma Johnson whom they presented with a silver nut bowl lined with gold.

The King Frost put Corporation Pond in shape for skating. After Dec. 10 the Millinery Parlors of Misses Cooper will be open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons only.

At a box social at the home of Mr. James Sprout \$41.75 was raised for the Red Cross. Mr. Oliver Hiltz had a successful sale at Ballinad. Mr. Hiltz intends going west. Messrs. H.P. Moore and Sgt. W. Gould were in Toronto to hear ex-president Roosevelt's big Victory Loan address at the Armouries.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 1, 1892.

An interesting checker match was played Monday evening. The sides were captained by John Harvey and James Matthews with 14 sets of players and six games played. Matthews' side won the laurels.

The new public school nears completion. The porch and belfry are just about concluded.

Mr. William Hampshire, tax collector, reports Esquering taxes coming in fairly well. We hope he will be able to show a fully receipted roll to Township Council. William is a hustler.

The Canada Glove Works is about to put in steam power to run their sewing machines. This should render the work much lighter for the operatives.

Eramosa township has nine places licensed to sell intoxicating liquors while in the adjoining township of Massaweya, there is only one, and in Erin only four.

H.S. McDonald has secured the drill shed for a skating rink this winter. He will pay \$26 for the season and leave the premises as he found them.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, November 28, 1867.

Berry's Minstrels performed to crowded houses on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at the Orange Hall, Milton. The performance was very good and free from the objectionable features to be seen in many of these shows. The house was kept in roars of laughter by the eccentricities of the "coloured pussen".

The eccentric man whose window breaking feats we related in our last issue was brought in before the Mayor on Thursday last and fined \$20, which merely paid the damage he has done. He seems to be insane, for we have since learned that he has been arrested in Toronto for drawing a revolver at a saloon keeper. He gave the police a great deal of trouble. He had \$400 when he commenced his spree in Milton, and in Toronto the police found but \$60 on him.

Free Press Church Notices

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN
Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1967
Advent Sunday
9:00 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.
Cocoa and rolls will be served following the Eucharist and a movie of interest to teenagers will be shown.
All teenagers are welcome
10:30 a.m.—Church School
10:30 a.m.—Advent Carol Service and Holy Eucharist
4 p.m.—The ordination of the Reverend Laurence Gene Duby to the Order of the Priesthood, at the Church of St. Columba, St. Catharines

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Minister — Rev. P. Brouwer
Acton, Ontario.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1967
10:00 a.m.—English Service.
11:10 a.m.—Sunday School.
2:30 p.m.—Alternating Dutch and English Service.
Saturday — Bible Classes 10-12 a.m. Everyone Welcome

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
81 Maple Ave., Georgetown
Pastor: Rev. Robert C. Lohnes
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1967
Here is our sincere invitation to the whole family to attend church.
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School. All ages
11:00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Evangel
7:45 p.m.—Wednesday, Prayer Meeting
Acton 853-1956 Georgetown 877-6665

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tildy Ave., Ph. 853-1615
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1967
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School — classes for all ages.
11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship. "Our Great High Priest"
7 p.m.—Evening Service — Sound film "Missionary at Watson's Garage"
Wednesday, 7:30—Prayer & Bible Study.
Thursday, 6:30—Explorers.
Thursday, 8:00—Choir Practice.
Friday 7:00 p.m.—B. H. F. meets.

TRINITY CHURCH (The United Church of Canada)
Minister: Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Dr. George Elliott, M.A., S.T.B.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1967
A series of sermons on "The Lord's Prayer". The Prayer That Spans The World And The Wordly. No. III "Give us this day."
10:00 a.m.—Trinity United (Nursery provided)
11:30 a.m.—Churchill United, Churchill Rd. North
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 a.m.—Junior School (to Gr. 4).
11:15 a.m.—Senior School (Gr. 5 to Gr. 8).
7:30 p.m.—Hi. C. for teenagers. Under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Coats
EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1967
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Worship.
Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer Service and Bible Study.
Thursday, at 8 p.m. — Christ Ambassadors.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D. Minister
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1967
9:45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15 years.
9:45 a.m.—Minister's Church Membership Class for Teenagers.
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship, Advent Sermon: "What's Ahead."
8:30 p.m.—Adult Worship and Bible Study at 42 Alice Street.
Everyone Most Welcome.

This is an invitation to attend the Church of your choice on Sunday.

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