

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

Serving the communities of

GEORGETOWN, GLEN WILLIAMS, NORVAL, LINEHOUSE, HORNEY, STEWARTTOWN, ASHGROVE, BALLINAFAD, TERRA COTTA

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The Editor's Column

EMPLOYMENT CONTROLS LIFTED

Employment controls, maintained during the war by the government through the National Selective Service offices, have now been relaxed to the point where only four elementary regulations are now in effect. These require that employers must notify the National Employment Office (located in Brampton for this district) of all vacancies in their establishments, and to report all additions to their staffs to the Office; that unemployed workers must register with the National Employment Office; and that persons terminating employment, either employer or employee, must give seven days notice of separation in prescribed form, a copy of which must be sent to the National Employment Office.

Thus terminates a system which we have never been able to decide whether its good points outnumbered the bad, or not. Perhaps human nature is too prone to note these latter and in our limited experience with S.S. officials, we are mindful still of the annoying red tape which characterized many features of Selective Service. We were never in agreement with the advertising policy which forbade an employer advertising under his own name, and made reference to employment offered be conducted through the S.S. officials. Inevitably this led to "bootlegging" of labour, with the option of transferring workers resting in the hands of officials who were prone to direct men into the hands of friends or of bigger employers.

However, we were always in agreement with the broad principles behind the plan to make Canada's war-time labour fit into the picture: as economically and as practically as possible, and Selective Service did accomplish this to some extent.

The existing requirements are the very minimum necessary to give local Employment Offices a picture of the manpower supply and demand, and should help both employer and employee in the reconstruction period. A large number of veterans have been demobilized and more are leaving the services daily, and the National Employment Service stands ready to act as a clearing house where job opportunities and available labour meet.

A GEORGETOWN MUSEUM

Presentation to us by Mr. Walter Moore of a Georgetown directory of 1892, brings to mind the fact that Georgetown should have a museum, where interesting historical items could be kept for the enrichment of future generations of residents. Like any community, there are hundreds of small historical treasures whose owners would be only too willing to donate them to a community museum where they would be cared for and preserved. The town of Collingwood has, we have heard, one of the finest of such collections, and yearly draws large groups of people to examine its exhibits. In town, we are particularly fortunate in having a building which would make an excellent site — the unused portion of the library which, now that we have a modern municipal building, is rarely used for meetings.

We would welcome some comment from our readers and if enough favorable opinion is expressed, believe that a public meeting would be in order to organize a Historical Society.

GEORGETOWN — 1892

The directory referred to above was compiled by a firm calling themselves Ridley & Christie and lists 317 names of residents, with their occupations and addresses. Apparently the idea of the booklet was to have paid advertising space supply the funds for printing and the compilers' profit, but for some reason the idea met with little favour and only two merchants saw fit to advertise. On the inside cover, we find Moore Brothers, Tinsmithing, Plumbing and Furnace Work, and J. M. Buck, Butcher, located in the Clark Block.

Making pointed reference to this lack of patronage, Ridley and Christie inserted a foreword which said: "It was our intention, had we been supported by the business men of the town, in the way of advertising, as we had a right to expect, to have published a directory full of information, and one that would have been a credit to the public at large."

But not having been properly supported by the very conservative business men here, we did not feel justified in printing a more elaborate edition, in fact we are out of pocket by this issue. Hoping that a little of the progressive spirit of the nineteenth century may be injected into the commercial community of Georgetown.

"Ridley and Christie".

One interesting feature gleaned from the booklet is that Georgetown streets were numbered in those days. The only store listed which still is operated by the same family is Buck's, which at that time was in charge of the late J. M. Buck, father of the present proprietor. Many names, of course, are still familiar in town—Barber, Baird, Willson, Ruston, Kennedy, Claridge, Langan, Hickey and Coffin, to name but a few.

HOUSING STILL A PROBLEM

We are hopeful that the end of 1946 will see some easement in the lack of housing accommodation in Georgetown. There are still numbers of people living in quarters inadequate for their needs, others who are forced to board in town while their wives and families live in other localities. With most English war brides scheduled to arrive in Canada this spring, and with other local servicemen still to return to town, the situation will be further complicated.

Meanwhile, the local Legion branch has expressed concern about the price of property in town and the consequent hardship inflicted on war veterans who wish to purchase property, build a home and settle down as home-owning citizens of the community. At a recent meeting, a motion was passed that "this Legion Branch 120 goes on record as condemning the practice as at present of property sales at such prohibitive figures. We wish to make strong representations to the local Rehabilitation Council, Georgetown Town Council and the local Board of Trade, that steps be taken to curb the present tendency in Georgetown."

This of course brings up the whole problem of inflated property values which could have and should have been dealt with by the Government at the same time as rent control was introduced. Property values would admittedly be hard to tie down as tightly as rents, but certain broad restrictions could be maintained. However, any action taken now would be of little value, inasmuch as property seems to have reached as high a price as could be asked. Without a Government directive, it would not be in the power of any municipal authority to take any action to force owners to reduce asking prices of property for sale. The only thing that could be done is a system, such as some municipalities have adopted of buying land at as good a price as possible and giving it to veterans or selling it to them at a reasonable pre-war price.

A necessary preliminary to this would be a complete survey of land for sale, an accurate estimate of the cost of buying it, a selling price set on each property, and examination of municipal finance to see if the town could bear the cost. We should not anticipate that any citizen would object to public money being spent for this, and no one should expect private individuals to take property losses on their own. At this stage, if anything is to be done, the community as a whole must bear the expense.

AGRICULTURAL SHORT COURSE AT MILTON OPENS WITH SPLENDID ENROLLMENT

The three weeks' Short Course in Agriculture opened in the Farmers' Bldg., Milton, on Monday morning last. At the time of going to press thirty-nine young men had enrolled. In addition, many visitors are taking in the special lectures and as a result a capacity audience greeted Prof. N. J. Thomas of the Soils Dept. O.A.C., and Arthur Diamond of Rockwood, who were the special speakers on the subjects of Soil Fertility, Long Term Pastures, and Farm Mechanics. J. E. Whitelock is being assisted the first two weeks by Geo. Bell, Assistant Agricultural Representative for Oxford County, who is handling the live stock work.

On Monday afternoon the young men visited the farm of Frank Stark, Trafalgar Township, where they received

instruction in the judging of Holsteins and Southdowns. On Thursdays they plan to visit the farm of M. T. McNabb and Sons, Esqueating, for instruction in the judging of Yorkshires.

Special features of the coming week include Arthur Diamond on Monday afternoon on Farm Mechanics; visits to the farms of J. H. Willmott and M. C. Beatty both of Trafalgar Township where they will receive training in the judging of Hampshire Sheep and Shorthorn Cattle and Jerseys. The class will also attend the annual meeting of the Halton Holstein Club where they will hear W. F. Watson, Assistant Director of the Ontario Live Stock Branch, on the subject of Artificial Breeding Units. On Friday, Jan. 18 the group will spend the day at the Packing Plants in Toronto.

We owe to the Chinese the invention of paper, painting and gunpowder.

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MILTON LAWYER HOME
FROM OVERSEAS
Capt. K. Y. Dick, son of Crown Attorney and Mrs. W. I. Dick, of Milton, and grandson of Mrs. S. Young of Georgetown, arrived in Milton on December 29th, after crossing from England on the Queen Elizabeth. Overseas for two and a half years, he was wounded in France in September, 1944. Capt. Dick was associated in his father's law practice before enlisting. He is married to the former Helen Winfield and they have a son, Kenneth.

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POST WAR PRODUCTS

There's a hint of what 1946 will have to offer, in the new merchandise which is beginning to appear in Georgetown stores. Refrigerators, washing machines and radios are promised for the near future—the new automobiles will be out soon—clothing supplies should soon be more plentiful.

Remember that your local merchants are always ready to serve you and will have these new products for sale as soon as they are available.

GEORGETOWN BOARD OF TRADE

RETAIL DIVISION