



"I'LL TRADE YOU this kitty for that dolly", Jennifer Why says to Sherri Dawson, while a stone-faced kangaroo outside the arts and crafts display at the home of Mrs. Jack Denny, R.R. 2, Acton, waits expectantly with a waste basket. The girls bargained outside while mothers were inside patronizing the arts and crafts sale Saturday afternoon at the Denny's Fourth Line home. —(Staff Photo)

Bill Smiley



It seems, if we are to believe the financial experts, that Canada is in for a tough time, economically. Them damyankees are at it again.

They are paying as much attention to our various trade missions and professional whiners as would a buffalo, charging toward a cliff, with a flea on his back screaming that he, too, would be killed if the buffalo went over the edge.

Well, as the fleas, we can't blame it on anybody but ourselves. It's been too comfortable, riding around on the back of that big, fat, juicy buffalo. Better we should have been wasps, stinging instead of sucking.

Now we know how the Esquimaux and the Indians feel about the rest of us.

Newspaper editorials are crying the blues, telling the government to do something about it, or trying to assure their readers that the U.S. is not out to "get" us.

They might as well save their type. It's too late for crying; there's no use telling the present government to do anything about anything; and the U.S. is not interested in "getting" us; it is interested in getting itself out of the worst economic mess it has been in since the thirties.

Writers of letters-to-the-editors are offering some emotional, but largely irrational advice to anyone who will listen. Some would cut the Yanks off from all our resources. That would be like cutting off your nose to improve your appearance.

Others would seize, or seriously police, all American subsidiary companies in Canada. That would result in further unemployment as the Yanks started closing plants, many of them heavily subsidized by our own government, and started pulling in their horns.

Maybe a mouse can frighten an elephant, according to legend, but a rat can't stop a ship from sinking by threatening to jump overboard. And there's a lovely mixed analogy for you to ponder over.

To carry on with the cliches, Canadians are reaping what they have sown. For several generations, they have invited, nay, begged foreign capital to invest in this country. They have refused to invest in their own country, preferring something "safer", like Brazilian Traction or A.T. and T.

Result? The country is crawling with British, Swedish, German and American plants, directed from abroad. I wonder how many Canadian companies you would find operating successfully in any of those countries.

Another cliché. You can't have your cake and eat it. We have all the ingredients for the cake. But rather than bake it ourselves, we send them to foreign bakers, buy it back from them, and find that it's mostly crumbs.

One more. You can't have it both ways. You can't be half capitalist, half socialist. And if you want to play around with a giant among capitalists, like the U.S., you need more protection than an Alcan jock-strap. You don't send in your high school second-string juniors to play against the pros.

Have I a solution? Of course I have. This economic lecture wasn't prepared without deep thought and deeper research.

First, let's stop running around in ever-decreasing circles, like that bird of legend. You know its fate.

Second, let's not bite the hand that feeds us. Unless that hand tries to give us a cuff on the ear. Then bite to hurt.

Third, let's pull in our belts, get off our tails, and start competing with industrialists in other countries. In short, stop producing shoddy merchandise at inflated prices. I'll take a wage freeze, will you? Thus endeth the lesson.

felt the Conservatives were the best choice at this time, although it is true more voters picked the other two parties.

Ontario has been traditionally Conservative, especially with a Liberal Government in power at Ottawa. Maybe if the tide turns and the Conservatives do regain power in Bytown the NDP and Liberals will shine.

So whatever your political feelings, you might as well adjust to at least four more years of Conservative rule.

And I think we will all live through it, don't you?

Doris Graham wonders whether Acton isn't missing out on some new kind of industry with the side effects of its leather industry. She sends an advertising blurb for a new perfume which traced the history of fragrance through the ages.

Of all the world's peoples, the French became the true perfectors of great perfumes. And it happened almost accidentally.

Fragrance has fascinated men and women from at least as long as man recorded his history but by the 16th century the French were the acknowledged experts in glove making, and gloves often required perfuming to disguise the scent of leather. Sounds familiar?

The heart of the glove-making business was in Grasse, France, and therefore, the blurb points out, its people learned to

(Continued on Page B3)

From the editor's desk . . .

At least one Acton Liberal has regained his equilibrium following the disappointing showing of his party in last Thursday's election.

Lou Bonnette sees the results as a blessing in disguise for the Liberals. He reasons the Conservatives received many votes that might otherwise have gone to the Liberals because voters figured the Liberals had no chance of forming a Government.

With Conservative strength so vigorous now, Lou figures they can't blame the opposition for any errors. The onus is on them to produce.

If the Tories had a minority government they would have been able to blame many of their problems on the opposition, says Lou. And there would always have been some people to believe them. It would be pretty hard for the Tories to convince people they are being persecuted with such a few seats occupied by the opposition parties now, he says.

Four years hence, Lou predicts, the Tories will have hung themselves and this will give the Liberals the chance they need—under a new leader, perhaps.

Anyway, he is optimistic, and taking a long range view of the Liberals' failure to come through with an appreciable amount of seats.

Meanwhile, Tom Watson, local restaurateur and self-confessed Tory, says Bob Nixon and his cronies can blame many of their problems on the federal Liberals and especially Pierre Trudeau.

The way Tom sees it, Trudeau made a big mistake inviting Alexei Kosygin, Soviet Premier, to Canada, and many people showed their displeasure by voting for the Conservatives in the provincial election, hoping the message would get through to the federal Liberals through provincial channels.

He listed several other "weaknesses" of the Trudeau Government which he feels also contributed to the swing to the Conservatives, including unemployment.

He may have a point, although this scribe would consider a vote in the next federal election a much better protest than one processed through Bob Nixon, who is a different sort of man than Mr. Trudeau.

Why did the Liberals and the New Democratic Party get their lumps in this election?

Was it the high geared advertising campaign the Conservatives mounted in the closing stages of the campaign?

Rumor, of course, suggests money for the Madison Avenue bombardment of voters came from the insurance companies who were prepared to spend all kinds of it to ensure the N.D.P. did not come to power with ideas of state-owned auto insurance.

We've never seen any proof of this so will have to discard it as just rumor until someone comes up with some kind of evidence.

Personally, we feel the voters had many reasons for choosing the Conservatives over the Liberals or the N.D.P. They obviously

Done their job well . . .

A lovely young lady with exceptional talent for communicating with an audience told people at the annual commencement exercises Friday she felt her high school education wasted the best years of her life.

Speaking with admirable frankness to a large audience of parents, friends,

admirers and teachers of graduates, she said she had been subjected to much useless information which students were told would be beneficial to the mind. Learning, she felt, should have been enjoyable instead of unhappy years of useless learning.

Teachers who listened to the valedictorian and felt they had done

their best to give students of the graduating class some of the best years of their lives were slightly hurt. But they needn't be.

If Acton district high school can turn out lovely young ladies who can express such forceful opinions with the delicacy this young lady did, then they have done their job well.

Free Press Editorial Page

UNICEF boon to children . . .

In an era when "reaching for the moon" has ceased to describe an impossibility, there is no longer any excuse for the world, to permit its children to go hungry in body and mind, to be deprived of the essentials of life—food, medical care and educational opportunities. Yet, of the twelve children who are born every few seconds in the developing countries of the world, two will not survive more than a few days, six will suffer from malnutrition. Of the eight who survive to school age, only four will set foot

inside a school, and only two will complete elementary school education.

UNICEF, which is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, is helping children over the developing world to a better life; so much more could be done if more money were available and, in world terms, so little is needed.

UNICEF spends \$60 million each year to reach 100 million of the billion children in need. That's equivalent to half a nuclear submarine or two hours worth of the world's defense produc-

tion, or half a moon rover vehicle. It is also equivalent to Canada's annual expenditure on candy and toothpaste.

When children from this district collect coins for UNICEF on Hallowe'en, they are assisting the less fortunate in parts of the world—in addition to teaching us a lesson in loving our neighbors. Last year they collected nearly \$700,000 across the country.

Be generous when they call again this year.

Love your neighbor.

Smashing Tory victory . . .

Ontario voters left no doubt they preferred Bill Davis and the Progressive Conservative government with a smashing election victory last Thursday.

Voters in Halton re-elected George Kerr and Jim Snow with resounding margins while John Root retained his Wellington-Dufferin seat by a large vote, reflecting the trend across the province.

Liberals and New Democrats in this area were deflated by the steamroller Tory avalanche, wondering where they went wrong, with appeals for change. It seemed voters are satisfied with the present administration and glowing promises for the future, rejecting Liberal and NDP platforms with equal scorn.

Only consolation for the opposition parties was the popular vote across Ontario showed more people wanted a change than desired to keep Bill Davis and his confreres. However, it is seats that count—and the Tories added ten

more to the total they had at the dissolution of the Legislature.

So Ontario is either struck with, or relishing the new government, depending on your point of view.

Certainly the winners used all the available advertising and campaign techniques to forge the victory—and who can blame them. They were also available to the other parties, although they were less well bankrolled.

Among the glowing promises of the Davis government are extension of the GO train system to Georgetown, establishment of a new provincial park on the doorstep of the Bronte GO station and extension of Highway 25 from Ospringe to beyond Grand Valley. These are all practical matters which could have been done anytime but were saved until the election time to add voter appeal.

Either of the two parties would have used the same kind of bait had they been in power, but we still don't like it, preferring instead to see them carried

out and let people decide for themselves on the record.

On the local scene, Minister of the Environment George Kerr was so popular there was no chance of anyone unseating him. Mr. McNutt and Mr. Mulkeewich did all that could be expected but George Kerr has built up such a reputation in the county with his reasonable, unruffled, pipe smoking demeanor, they faced an almost impossible task.

Halton East's cabinet minister Jim Snow also demonstrated he has built up a large following in that riding as he ran up a large margin on his three opponents. John Root showed he has lost none of his political sagacity by taking Wellington-Dufferin from two challengers, including popular Cam Lush and outgoing Alan Rimmer.

Congratulations are in order to all winners and condolences to losers who should remember that there will always be a "next time" despite the disappointments of the moment.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 8, 1951.

Acton's new snow blower was delivered one day ahead of the big snow storm. Snow blanketed the roads and there were many weekend accidents. The snow blower was put to the acid test clearing the slushy snowfall and by evening the bulk of the snow was cleared, loaded in trucks and hauled away. It looks as if it's going to play a big part in keeping Acton's streets the best in any town.

The Ladies' Guild of St. Alban's held a very successful tea and bazaar Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. The rector's wife Mrs. Luxton and the president of the Guild Mrs. Thomas Jones received the guests and poured tea. Door prizes were won by Mrs. J. Graham, Mrs. G. Holmes, Mrs. MacAuley and Mrs. H. Harris. The estimate on the number of beans in the jar was won by Mrs. Wm. Coon and Mrs. Fred Salt.

Although the new parish hall is not yet finished the sale of work was held there. Acton's pumping station at the corner of Main and Agnes Sts. went into operation this week.

The pupils at Bannockburn school held a Hallowe'en party and those with interesting disguises were Lillian Phillips, Kenneth Rotz, Jimmie Rotz, Margaret Morrison, Joan Brooks, Sally Thompson.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 3, 1921.

There isn't any doubt that there are more turnips shipped at Rockwood station each season than at any other similar point in Ontario. The shippers are pretty well rushed these days.

Saturday will be Guy Fawkes Day. The dairies have reduced milk to 10 cents a quart and bread is down to 10 cents in Guelph now.

What a lot of good pumpkins were sacrificed to Hallowe'en fun and follies. The

boys, and girls too, behaved themselves very well on Hallowe'en.

The Reeve reports he has had a conversation with Mr. Mason of Alton re the establishment of a woollen mill in Acton. Mr. Mason will put in a written statement of requirements.

The statistics of Halton County Jail show: Number of prisoners 101; married 17; single 84; temperate 41; intemperate 60; daily average cost of supplying meals to inmates 19.36 cents. There were no female prisoners. Not a single prisoner escaped.

Halton county has a population of 25,265, the census shows. Peel has 20 more than Halton.

Mrs. George Havill, secretary of the local board of the Mothers Allowance Act, reports there are 28 mothers in Halton who receive allowances. There were 44 applications. Cash paid to applicants was \$5,717. None of the applicants received allowances more than eight months. Skirts are short this year.

The open Wednesday afternoon at our business places ended last Wednesday.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, November 5, 1896

Hallowe'en passed with comparative quietness on Saturday night.

In St. Marys over 500 women have pledged themselves to do their Saturday shopping early enough to enable businessmen to close their stores at eight o'clock. A similar arrangement might be of advantage here.

A little over two months ago the dwelling of Mr. James T. Halsted on Bower Ave. was fired by an incendiary but the alarm being given the fire was extinguished with a loss of less than \$100. The first alarm since that occasion was rung Friday and it was found the fire was in the same premises. The firemen were prompt on the scene but the devouring element had been in possession for some time and the house was a mass of flames. Only a kitchen table and stove were saved. Mr. and Mrs. Halsted were in Hamilton and there had been no fire in the house since Tuesday. There is evidence burglars were responsible. A bundle containing silverware and cutlery, a quilt and tablecloth was found on the G.T.R. track at the rear of the premises. The house was insured for \$300 and the contents for \$300. Mr. Halsted has not decided if he will rebuild.

In one of the most extraordinary elections of the United States the free silver advocates were routed, the Democratic party wrecked and the policy of protection and the maintenance of the gold standard as advocated by the republican leaders triumphed. McKinley is president.

In these days of trade depression and the lowering of wages it behooves careful shoppers to get the most for their dollar. Shop at Henderson and Co., Acton.

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