

Mini-Comment

A Winnipeg family volunteered to live a 100 per cent Canadian life for three weeks as a project organized by the Financial Post Magazine. The result? "You go to work naked and riding a dogsled, but you save money." The Kings found transportation, clothing and reading material the biggest problems because there is no such thing as an all-Canadian motor vehicle, Canadian-made clothes just don't compete price-wise, and home-grown literature is pretty sparse. The bright spot came when the family went shopping. By buying all-Canadian groceries and household goods the Kings made some real savings—up to 25 per cent and 50 per cent on some items. Total savings made by buying Canadian—15.8 per cent or \$7.90 on a \$50 grocery bill. Proving it pays to shop Canadian, except for those things which are not made here. It also illustrates we all have some amount of interdependence on trade with other countries. Trade is a two way street. If we do not buy imported products, other countries won't buy Canadian products.

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Beware of the politician who promotes pie in the sky. He plans to use your dough.

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Statements by the owners of the Boston Bruins and the St. Louis Blues really indicate how much interest American N.H.L. team owners have in the patriotism of their Canadian players. They absolutely refuse to let players sign for the proposed Russia-Canada matches in September. We would like to see the players thumb their noses at their American bosses and play for Canada, anyway, but doubt if any of them will.

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Acton needs a sidewalk sweeper similar to the machine used on the roads to clean up the winter's debris, or perhaps a by-law making it mandatory for property owners to keep sidewalks along their properties clean. It is too much to expect town workmen to sweep all sidewalks in town by hand.

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Comparing tax rates in nearby towns and townships, the picture is almost identical. Georgetown's tax rate remains the same, Milton experienced a slight cut in the mill rate. Esquering a small increase, while Acton's residential rate also climbed a small 3.6 mills. But everyone will pay more taxes than last year because the provincial Government has dropped the tax rebate system used in the last few years for a scheme which will enable ratepayers to claim a rebate on their income tax form in 1973. The new system still robs Peter to pay Paul and loses much of its value in the transfer.



SPRING IS FOR THE BIRDS . . . and also for children. Parks employee Don Price positions one of the 50 birdhouses, donated by Acton Woodcrafts to the parks and recreation committee. The birdhouses will be scattered throughout trees in the park. Below, Donna Cameron and Douglas Weaver took advantage of a brief warm spell last week to do some skipping. Temperatures haven't been quite so high this week. (Photos by D. Gibbons)

Tax increase big enough . . .

The importance of new assessment to the town is demonstrated by the mill rate Acton Council set at a special meeting. Although it showed a slight 3.0 increase the new rate does not show all the needed items council had to slash. Almost \$50,000 in extra costs this year has no assessment to cover the increase. It is ironic also that in a year the town experienced the least growth the provincial government should decide to cut off the residential tax rebate. This means taxpayers could expect at least a \$50 extra jolt no matter where council decided the mill rate should stand, presuming, of course, it could not take a drop. In order to keep the mill rate at a modest increase council therefore felt obliged to slash almost all the budgets—and it hurt. Biggest blow was experienced by the recreation com-

mittee which had the figure for operating the community centre cut by \$6,700 and \$10,000 lopped off the sum they anticipated using for repairs. The general public is probably not fully aware that education and county levies, over which the council has no control, accounted for more than half the tax bill. Education took 38.3 of the residential mill rate and the county took 7.6 for a total of 45.9 mills out of a total of 90.7. Theoretically a council has control over the rest of the mill rate but there's the matter of debenture payments amounting to almost \$150,000 which causes some more serious erosion of the amount council can spend. Considering all the variables, and the added shock accompanying abandonment of the provincial residential tax rebate, we feel council made a wise decision limiting the tax hike to 3.6 residential and 5.7 commercial and industrial.

At the same time we can understand the frustration of Councillor Peter Marks who for three years running has seen the recreation committee budget slashed. His understandable reaction is that council has no faith in their appointed body when they make wholesale slashes in a budget they spent considerable time with. Councillor Marks would like to see the town take the bull by the horns and make one big mill increase to look after all the deficiencies being created by the lack of tax money. This could be a valid move if the provincial tax rebate was not abandoned but under the circumstances would create too much of a burden for taxpayers in a given year. Finance chairman Reeve Frank Oakes has indicated that the town will experience a much needed assessment hike in 1973 because of the surge of building. This should help the situation in 1973. But 1972 will go down as not even being a good caretaker year.

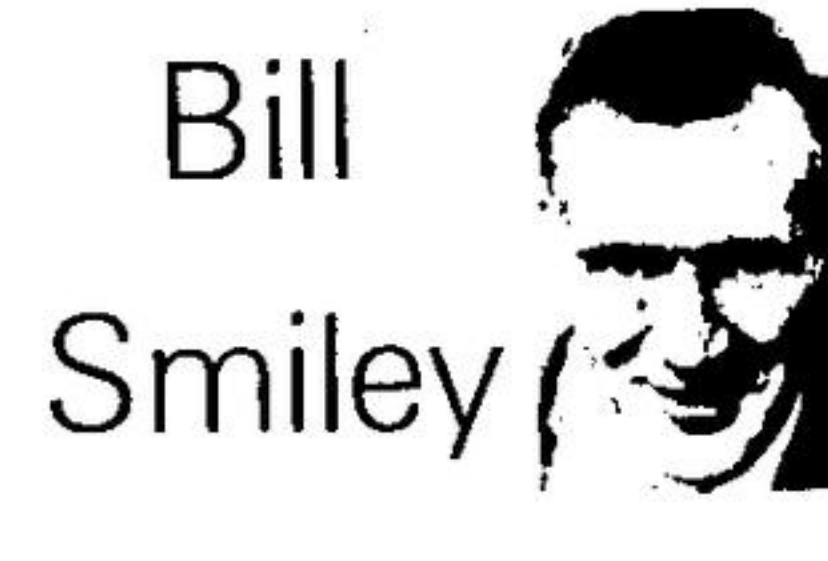
Canadian impressions . . .

Canadians who may wonder what impressions of our country American visitors have after they encounter rudeness or ignorance on the part of some, may be assured at the same time that courteous and friendly people create a good impression of Canada and Canadians. Proof of this is evident in a letter the Department of Tourism and Information received from some United States citizens who vacationed in Canada. We print the letter to prove the point: Dear Sir: When we left Pennsylvania we were three families pulling trailers and heading toward Niagara Falls and then on to Algonquin Provincial Park. Somewhere in New York State we lost one family. When we crossed the border at Niagara Falls we asked the Canadian guards and they did everything they could to help us.

Thanks to them we knew our friends were safe and managed to find them and continue our trip to Algonquin. Now to the reason for my writing this letter—"Algonquin Provincial Park". Thanks to you and your fellow countrymen for preserving the beauty of the pines, the sweet fragrance of the ferns, the untouched beauty of nature at her best. We are city people. Before now my children had only seen bear, deer and other large wildlife at the zoo. Now they have seen them in their natural setting where God had intended they be. My children now have experiences and memories to last a lifetime. To end my letter I have a small list of 'Thank You's'. To the border guards. To the lady with the Irish accent at Killarney Lodge for her friendliness and hospitality.

To the park guards at Mew Lake for their care and supervision. To the friendly old man at the Logging Museum who patiently listened to my 4-year-old son's jabbering, and gave my daughter a piece of a log. Believe me they won't forget him. Lastly to all the wonderful Canadians who treated us with nothing but warmth and love. We have wonderful memories of Canada and her people. Please believe me when I tell you Canada has won a particular spot in our hearts. We shall return—again and again. Thank you Sincerely, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. O'Donnell and family, 801 Grant Road, Folcroft, Pennsylvania.

Teachers are being lambasted from all quarters these days, poor things. As a species, they are practically harmless. But then is not that one of the immutable laws of our society? Attack the harmless, and tread warily with the powerful and the ruthless. According to their critics, all they are interested in is more money. This, of course, is not true of plumbers, policemen, doctors, and dentists, lawyers and even Indian chiefs, garbage men and garage operators.



nothing of strictly local conditions. In many cases, not all, the school boards became more rubber stamps for the administrators. The latter, in turn, work hand in glove with the provincial department of Ed. II, in turn, is responsible to the party in power. A nice little ring-a-round. So who is running what? When this was first proposed, I prophesied the result: increased costs; decreased efficiency. And I take back not a word of it. Ask any teacher.

Sure they're interested in more money, at least enough to keep up with the galloping cost-of-living index. But it's a lie that money is all they are interested in. The great majority is interested chiefly in doing well what they are supposed to do — educate our children. And I can't blame them when they get a little sore at the constant, usually ignorant heckling of people who don't know what it's all about. Nor can I help feeling a certain kinship when some of the more militant young teachers start talking about strikes and such. A garbage man can go on strike, a teacher can't. The logic eludes me. The whole business bothers me very little, personally. A man who has been through a war and a decade as a weekly newspaper editor has developed a pretty tough skin. But there is something a little sinister in the growing influence of politicians on education, for purely political reasons. And I feel a tremor of alarm when I see a few so-called responsible daily newspapers frothing at the mouth when the simple word "teachers" emerges.

I am grinding no axe. In fact, I don't even have a hatchet for chopping kindling. I lost it. But it appears to me that a few Machiavellian characters have put their pointed heads together and decided to destroy, deliberately, our educational system. The system, when you and I went through it, was far from perfect. But it needed reformation, not defamiation. It required healing medicine, not mad, massive surgery. The first political step toward chaos occurred when many of the local school boards throughout Canada lost their autonomy. The Boards were made up of men and women who would bust a gut, literally, to get the best possible education for their own, local kids. It was far from perfect, but it worked. Then the provincial governments decided this was archaic. Of course it was. So is the Bible. So is democracy. So is the conceiving of children. Next step, in Ontario, for example, county school boards were formed. Administrators were appointed who knew

Then the government, with pious recititude, after a period of spending untold millions on education, and almost suggesting that everyone who makes it in Grade I should graduate from university, takes a sidelong look at the taxpayers, and decides to play Jack the Giant Killer. Via spending ceilings on education. There don't seem to be any spending ceilings on health or welfare. But out of one side of its mouth, through its tame Department of Ed., government says, "Let's have more innovative, daring, relevant courses for our students." Out of the other side it says, "Sorry, we can't afford that. . . or that. . . or that." Something stinks? To me it does. Oh, well, let's raise the taxes on booze and smokes and build some more highways and airports. Let's raise tuition fees and cut down on government scholarships and, maybe the universities won't be so crowded. And let's get out the whips and show those ungrateful teachers where they belong — back in the cages.

Our readers write Christian heritage not playing church

Dear Sir: Our nation was founded on the Christian heritage. What is the Christian heritage? It is not just playing church. It is accepting Jesus as Savior for our sins. Our sins have separated us from God but through Jesus, who died and rose from the dead, we can be reconciled to God. But do we ask God to forgive us our sins and in humility seek the will of God? Do we even care or are we like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah who didn't care and wouldn't listen to God and God rained down fire and brimstone and destroyed their city? Are we always trying to cover up and blame others for our own faults? 11 Chronicles 7:14. "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land." Our land certainly needs God's help and God can and will help us if we Christians humble ourselves, pray, seek the Lord and turn from all our wicked ways. We have made our homes, cars, money,

jobs, family, pleasures, entertainment and our own rights all more important than God. Rev. 3:16 "Because thou art lukewarm I will spue thee out of my mouth." John 5:37. "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." 1 Chronicles 28:9. ". . . serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind for the Lord searcheth all hearts and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts; if thou seek him he will be found of thee." Many books have been written in hope of proving Jesus untrue but in research it has always been proven the facts of the Bible are true. Jesus was; he did live on this earth and all the facts about him are true. Jesus also rose from the dead and still is alive. John 14:3. "I go and prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there ye may be also." Matt. 25:10. "They that were ready went in with him." Are we ready? Let's wake up, Christians. Let's obey God's word by humbling ourselves before God, praying and seeking God and turn from

any wickedness in our lives. Let us come to God and ask him to move across our land. Let us come to God and ask him to awaken us and to draw us closer. Let us open our hearts and lives to God and ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit. Let us yield ourselves to God so that He can really help us. Let's not lose out on God's promises due to hardened hearts. —Charlotte Marchmont, Box 841, Acton.

Concern about mobile homes

Dear Sir, Nassagaweya's elected representatives should think well and think deeply before granting a licence for a mobile home site in the area of the 5th line and 13 Side Rd. Mobile home sites (or trailer camps) like wrecking yards are very hard and costly to shut down once they are established. Once such sites are designated, successive owners are apt to forget the good intentions of the original owners, and the licence to operate is at a premium. It is true there are some beautiful mobile home sites in the U.S.A., there are also some dumps. Some of the pitfalls of mobile home sites are as follows. A site is difficult to designate as for old folks or for adults only. You usually invoke

charges of discrimination. This area is very handy for the whole of the Golden Horseshoe, that means transient workers seeking places to park mobile homes. Many of these workers enjoy summer work, but in winter during strikes etc., they wind up on the welfare rolls. Such a site could also attract the undesirable element that follows the racing circuit. I don't mean the legitimate sportsman, I mean to those who live by their wits, the con-men etc. I think our council members should talk to their counterparts in areas where there are already established mobile home sites and weight carefully the pro's and cons. Wm. A. Johnson

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 18 W. How St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the CWNA and the CMAA. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions: \$10.00 per year in advance. \$6.00 in Canada, \$10.00 in all countries other than Canada. Single copies 15 cents. Second class mail registration number 6513. Advertising is accepted on the condition that in the event of typographical error that portion of the advertising space or charge for the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate in the event of a typographical error affecting goods or services at a selling price, merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

Printed and Published by C. L. Dills, David R. Dills, Publisher, Don Ryder, Hartley Coles, Editor.

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Back Issues of The Free Press

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 1, 1952. Acton's sewage system is in operation! Motors began to hum, pumps began to work, sewage began to flow and engineers watched as the lever of progress was pulled, setting in operation a \$433,000 system that has been more than two years in the building. Upheaved streets, trench cave-ins, weather delays, years of planning and nights of meetings were ended as the system takes over its task. Superintendent of the system will be Jack Lambert. The deepest manhole in the system is located at the corner of Knox and Main, a depth of 22 feet. The system has been referred to as the best in Ontario. Acton council accepted the resignation of Frank Crump as assessment commissioner. Wednesday afternoon in the Y mothers gathered with a group of excited young children to mark the closing of the first season of nursery school. The mothers presented the ladies who directed the school with cups and saucers, Mrs. D. Price, Mrs. Fred Hunter, Mrs. Hilliard Price, Mrs. G. F. Wilds, Mrs. Aubrey Gervais, Mrs. J. McGladrey, Mrs. J. Hurst and Mrs. K. Graham. The seventh annual At Home of Halton Junior Farmers was held at the Brant Inn. In the receiving line were Mac Sprowl, county president, and Miss Joanne Julian. Work started this week on a new addition at the rear of Acton Home Furnishings store.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 27, 1922. It is very gratifying to the firemen that all citizens so willingly lend a hand in getting the apparatus to fires that occur in town. This was very manifest in the case of the call last Monday when trucks and cars were freely offered to draw the apparatus and the speed thus attained in reaching the scene was greatly increased. The busy hum of motors on the second line was welcome on the ears of the farmers for whom it meant dry roads and fields. The members of the Ruth Nelson Mission Circle gave a very impressive pageant representing the appeal of the nations to Canada for the gospel. The various representatives in costume were Hazel McDonald as Canada; Olive McLaughlin, Japan; Sabra Nelson, China; Laura Scott, India; Doris Scarrow, Africa; Beatrice Blair, South American Indians; board of missions Helen Anderson, Violet Davis, Margaret Moore, Doris Lambert, Minnie Blair, Clara Savage; Lily Alderson sang several solos and recitations were given by little Misses Velma Blair and Corinne McDonald. Miss Bertie Speight, the superintendent of the circle, had charge of the very creditable evening. Fire broke out at the home in Rockwood of W. H. Jago, the well-known glove manufacturer of 25 years and more, at Rockwood. The building was in the lot at the rear of S. R. Peart's hardware store. The building was completely destroyed.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 6, 1897. Another newspaper reports that Laing Bros. are holding public entertainments with projectoscope and magniphone. The projectoscope is an apparatus by which 1,000 or more pictures on an endless film are caused to pass through a series of rollers behind a lens illuminated from the rear by a calcium light. It is Edison's latest improvement and has been on the market only three months. It costs \$350. The apparatus which throws the picture on a screen is placed back on the stage in the rear of the canvas. The magniphone renders various selections and can be distinctly heard. The Black Diamond express hurries right at you on the screen. The most striking views, all purchased of Edison at his laboratory, were The Kissing Scene, Washing the Picnicary, Feeding the Doves and The Fire Rescue. J. N. Stinson store, Rockwood — good red salmon 10c a can, corn 5c a can, pineapples 15c a can, nectarines 25c a can, ginger snaps 5c a lb., mixed candies per lb. 5c. Advertisement — E. R. Bollert, Guelph Just think of it! If you want a black dress you have the choice of 117 different materials from the dress goods on our shelves this day. This represents a range of prices from 25c to \$2.85 per yard. There are no flimsy and trashy materials as offered by present-day merchant fakirs. Prof. Cozens, phrenologist, occupied the town hall Thursday. The audience was made up largely of juveniles.