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Office Manager: Fran Gibson  
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## Better policing

Redistribution of patrol zones by Halton Regional Police, especially the creation of a new patrol area, is designed to increase police protection for Acton and district. Only time will tell if the move succeeds. The move will put one more constable on duty and a police spokesman has assured the public they will get prompt attention to appeals for help.

Police expect they'll be able to make more patrols in town and cruisers will be a more common sight. The changes also mean that one constable will always be in Acton. Apparently during a shift change this was not always possible.

The change in patrols came

about from the department's review of work information in Acton and the remainder of district One which includes the old township of Esquesing, Georgetown and Milton. Instead of just listening to the experts, there is evidence the department started listening to officers who live in or near town with first hand knowledge of Acton and environs. As a result there has been some shifting to improve police protection.

Hopefully, the police department will continually monitor the police needs of town and district. Halton police have often been accused in the past of ignoring needs of citizens north of highway 401. More efficient policing should do much to dispel that image.

## A faithful correspondent

A Free Press correspondent for many years, Mrs. Irene MacArthur died January 20 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph. Mrs. MacArthur seldom missed anything which took place in Churchill and surrounding countryside. Without her and others like her, the weekly newspapers of Canada would be much poorer in their content.

A correspondent's job requires a great deal of tact. They must find out everyday happenings in their communities without seeming to be nosy and then put the news down on paper so sensibilities will not be offended. Mrs. MacArthur did this very well and seldom missed a week when her column wasn't eagerly read.

Former residents of the Churchill district often subscribed to the Free Press so they could keep abreast of what was happening in their old neighborhood. Mrs. MacArthur kept writing her column until ill health forced her to quit. Sometimes communica-

tions between the newspaper and her farm home on the brow of historic Churchill were interrupted by snowstorms, road construction or other hazards which made news delivery difficult. If the news couldn't come by mail, then Mrs. MacArthur phoned it in. If the telephone lines were out she always made sure a neighbor or friend dropped it into the Free Press office.

Her accounts of happenings in Churchill, especially in the church she loved, were replete with many names, the stuff which makes the weekly newspapers. She began sending in reports about 1963 from the same farm where she was born, and often despite poor health.

Our correspondents are a lively, interesting group of women whose involvement in the community is the only reward they ask and Mrs. MacArthur was one of the best. She'll live on in the hearts of many.

## Smoking costs money

Virtue need not be its own reward. Sometimes there's money in it. That's one message the Halton Council on Smoking is trying to get across to local business and industry leaders during the current National Education Week on Smoking.

Some examples: The average smoker spends \$350 a year to maintain his habit. If he quits, he's \$350 richer. A couple of pack-a-day smokers burn \$700 a year. The savings in health can't be measured. They're priceless.

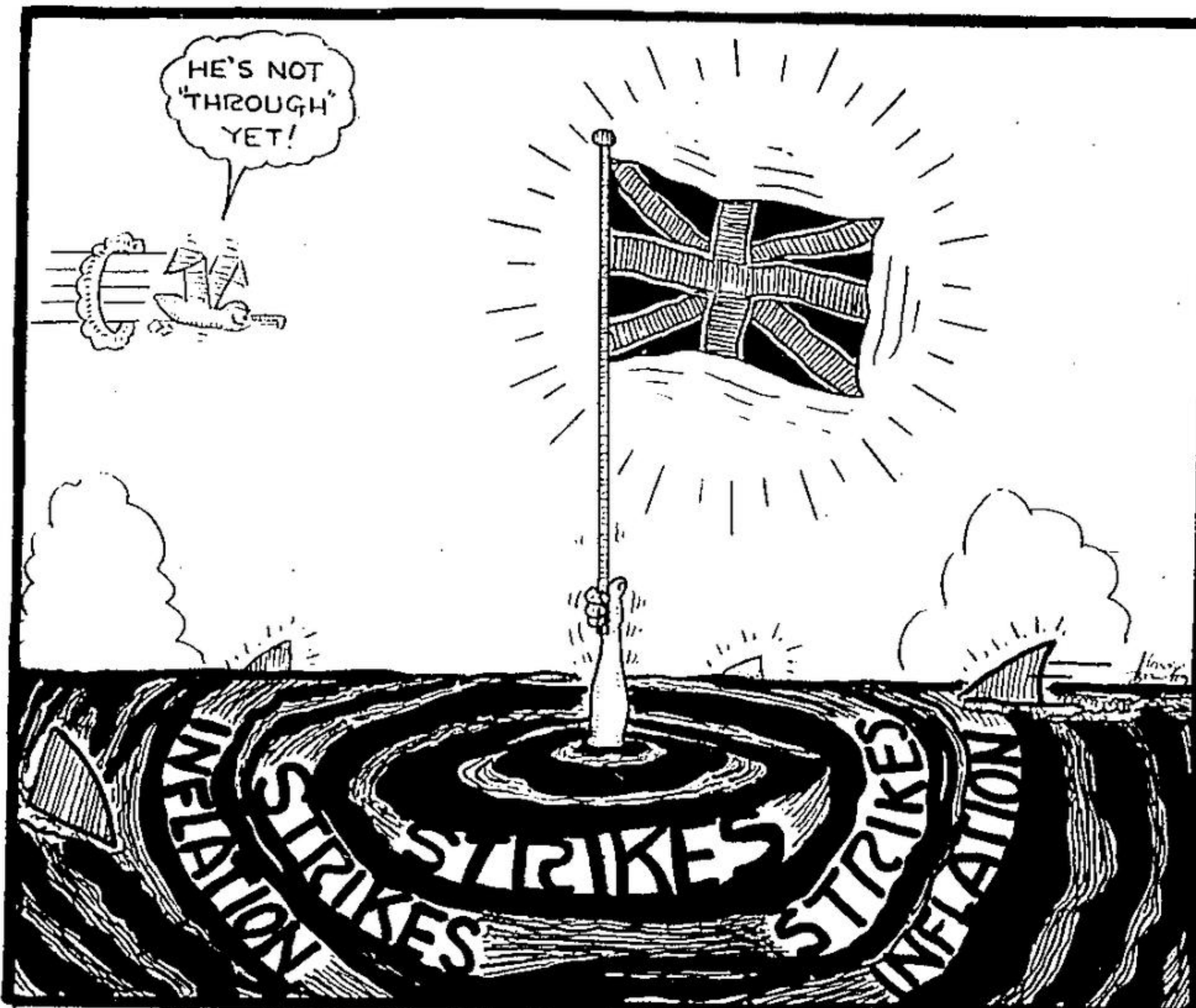
Workers who smoke cigarettes spend over one third more time away from their jobs because of illness than people who have never smoked.

Recent evidence indicates that cigarette smoke damages not only

the smoker, but increases the heart rate, blood pressure and amount of carbon monoxide in the blood of those in the vicinity.

There are other ways in which cigarettes cost money. For instance, cigarette burns on clothing and freshly typed letters. Stains on teeth and damage to gums requiring more visits to the dentist. Those extra trips to the store when you run out of cigarettes and the extra drives to make sure you have cigarettes on Sunday morning. It really doesn't make sense to spend so much for something so dangerous.

Want to quit and don't know how? Contact the Halton Council on Smoking or any of its member agencies for information on smoking and tips for quitting.



## On with the race, hang the expense

by  
Bill  
Smiley



It's hard to head into a new year with a high heart, when every second headline or smarmy news announcer hits you another blow where it hurts—right on the financial bone. It doesn't tingle, like a crack on the funny bone. Rather it produces a dull, sick ache that you know isn't going to go away in a few minutes.

All the staples of life in our once-wonderful Canadian standard of living are taking another spurt in the inflation race: bread, butter, cheese, milk, meat, vegetables, fruit. There's a plausible explanation for every increase, as usual.

But I have a deep, abiding suspicion, and if I had the research facilities, I'll bet I could confirm it. I have a strong feeling that when the basic commodity rises, say, 20 per cent, the middlemen, the big food chains with their handy outlets, the supermarkets, add another five per cent to make it a nice round 25 per cent, fully realizing that the harried shopper hasn't time or resources to figure out whether the increase on the shelves is justified.

One would have to shop with a calculator in one hand, a copy of the Financial Post in the other, and a mind like a steel trap to be able to prove it. But I have a feeling deep in my bones that it's so. Heard of any big food or supermarket chains going broke lately, trying to keep prices down? Any liquor stores? Any big oil companies? Nope, just round it off to next figure above the increase, never below, and let the consumer make up the difference. After all, it's a free enterprise system we're living in. And devil take the hindmost.

This type of swindle is only pennies, when you look at one item. But it doesn't take those pennies long to turn into millions of dollars when the manipulators

gather in their counting houses at the end of a year.

And it's a kick in the solar plexus for the people on low or limited incomes, trying to keep food on the table. If I were an old-age pensioner and had nothing else to live on, I'd be scared stiff to pick up the morning paper and learn what new item would have to be banished from the menu.

If I were a young mother with a raft of kids and a husband out of work, I'd contemplate eating the kids, starting with the youngest and most succulent, rather than trying to feed them.

I'm not an economist, thank the Lord (what a mess they've made of things). But I think it makes more sense to subsidize farmers for growing wheat so that the price of bread may be kept down, than it does to subsidize American industrial giants so that a few thousand jobs will be created.

I know the answers: we need the jobs and the taxes industry will produce. But the farmers will still be here, growing wheat, when huge new factories have closed, the jobs have vanished, and the Americans are gone, laughing all the way to the bank. It's happened before, and will again.

I don't blame the Yanks. If you can find a sucker willing to give you huge subsidies, and sweet tax concessions, why not use

him? When the subsidies dry up, and the tax concessions period ends, you can always go home, taking your marbles with you. No skin off yours.

Don't think I like subsidies of any kind. I hate them. Nobody ever subsidized my father. And when he went broke in the depression, he and my mother had to scramble to keep us off the relief roles. But they did.

That of course, was in the days when individual enterprise was possible, before everything got so big and faceless and unwieldy, when a person was still a human being, not just a number buried in the bowels of that vast conglomerate that is government today.

No, I don't like subsidies, but I do believe in fair shares, or as near as we can get in our system. And that brings me from food fiddling to taxes.

Every year I read the early January reports of changes in the tax structure. And every year I almost weep. It's the rich who gets the gravy, it's the poor who gets the blame, as the old song goes.

This year, as usual, the poor get a few minor concessions, but with inflation, wind up shorter than ever. The rich get the same concessions, but with their money invested at fat interest rates, come out ahead of the game. The poor don't have investments. They have to operate in the market place.

It's all very complicated and I won't go into it here. But putting it roughly, I reckon that if you were a totally disabled veteran with 12 kids and a working wife, you might, just might, have the same income, as the pension of a politician who served two terms, was soundly thumped the last time around, and had returned to his fat law practice.

## Julian Reed: minister's misguided

Following is an exchange of letters between MPP Julian Reed (Halton-Burlington) and Minister of Energy James Auld re an independent study of the Bruce to Milton hydro corridor initiated by Mr. Reed when he asked the minister for such a study:

December 27, 1978

Dear Julian:  
I have on hand your letter of December 4th, concerning the Bruce to Milton transmission corridor, again requesting that there be an independent study on the routing of this corridor.

I have reviewed this matter carefully and fully concur with the view of my predecessor that the route was selected after a comprehensive study by B.H.I. and the Solandt Commission as to the appropriate crossing of the Niagara Escarpment and the intersection with the Nanticoke to Pickering transmission line. All the necessary land and easements were expropriated after additional public hearings and are now owned by Ontario Hydro. It would seem to me that a further study would be wasteful and unnecessary.

For your information, I am enclosing copies of two letters on this subject, addressed to the Region of Halton, one dated December 31, 1974 from the Hon. Darcy McKeough, and one from myself dated November 23, 1978.

I cannot agree with you that there is no longer any urgency for settlement of this problem. It is true that Ontario Hydro has a good margin of generation reserve, but it does not have adequate transmission capability in place to use our new generating facilities in an efficient manner.

I welcome your offer of assistance in resolving this matter, and I am quite willing to discuss what might be done by this issue to an early solution. Perhaps there would be merit in arranging for a meeting with the new Mayor of Halton Hills and the new Halton Region Chairman. They have an interest in this matter, and no doubt want to bring it to an early conclusion.

I look forward to hearing from you.  
James A. C. Auld

The Honourable James Auld  
Minister of Energy

Dear Jim:  
I have received your reply to my letter of December 4 and would like to point out just a couple of things which would suggest to me that you are being somewhat misled by your advisors.  
First of all, the necessary land and easements have not been expropriated. Mr. Reford Gardhouse is one of many others who continue to refuse either access or any

kind of procedure with the line. Secondly, the comprehensive study by B.H.I. and Solandt did not include the north of the corridor and that was testified under oath by Ontario Hydro at the hearings of necessity. The latter statement I have responded to, above all, the ultimate bottom line on this problem.

I do not know who is giving you your facts on this matter but they do not tally with the hearings. The Interested Citizens Group have repeatedly stated to me and have stated to the Minister of Energy as well, as I mentioned before, that if an independent study were to find that the corridor should go in exactly the same place as is intended now, they will accept that independent decision and you can be sure I will support such an independent position as accepted by the I.C.G.

I would be the last to take the "not in my backyard" position of so many people who may protest a particular move by government but I am determined, above all, that these land owners should have at least the same justice that would appear to be done through the Solandt hearings on the east-west corridor.

I would be most anxious to meet with you at your earliest convenience. Just give me a phone call and I will break away and be there.

Sincerely,  
JULIAN REED

## Back issues

### 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, January 29, 1969

Merger of the entire counties of Halton and Peel into one giant "super metro" regional government, with a series of six or seven lower-tier local councils, was predicted as a possibility for 1971 by the Hon. Darcy McKeough. Acton, Georgetown and part of Esquesing township would be in one area.

Halton county councillors generally want "no part of union with Peel," says reeve Dr. Frank Oakes. Deputy-reeve Tyler declared "Acton will lose all its identity."

Mr. Greer added "We're the back end of the county. Anything they don't want will be shoved at the back." A couple of councillors mildly disagreed. Mr. McKenzie stated that a system adequate 100 years ago is obsolete now. Mr. Coats said towns bordering Toronto didn't lose their identity. Mr. Marks wondered if too much emphasis was being put on identity. We should look at the broader plan, he said.

Local reaction has generally been unfavorable.

John Goy received his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Guelph.

Wilfred McEachern, who topped the polls, was appointed the new chairman of Acton Hydro Electric Commission.

Wilmer Fryer was re-elected president of Acton Agricultural Society at the annual meeting, with Don Matthews first vice-president and Bill Nelson second vice-president.

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, January 29, 1959

The 20th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns brought a busy weekend for Fred Wright. He and his wife attended the dinner and dance of the Acton Scottish Dance Club, of which he is a member, on Friday and on Saturday the party of the Guelph Pipe Band, of which he is president. And he observed his birthday on the same date as Robert Burns, January 25.

A well-known resident of Erin Township, Thomas Henry Fines passed away.

The annual High School At Home is the social event of the year. Many parents joined their family and enjoyed an evening of dancing. On the lunch committee were Anne Daintith, Jean Moffatt, Shirley Mason and Linda Lovell.

Invited representatives met to discuss the installation of artificial ice in the arena. Chairman was George Barbeau of the Chamber of Commerce.

Lloyd McEnery was appointed president to lead Acton Fall Fair board in their quest for a bigger and better display in 1959. Despite a snow storm, the council chambers was packed for the annual meeting Saturday. Bill Thompson was president last year and headed one of the most successful fairs in history.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, January 24, 1929

A delegation from the Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E., Mrs. James Adamson and Miss Jessie Russell, attended the meeting of council and signified the willingness of this order to supply the material for re-flooring the floor of the stage and steps in the town hall, if council would do the work. Reeve Leslie of Esquesing was elected warden of Halton county.

The drilling operations that have been carried on by the Suburban Gas and Oil syndicate, for the past six months, of which Mr. Tony Seynuck is the manager, met with a measure of success on Saturday afternoon when at a depth of 2,050 feet, a gas well was struck, with a good flow of natural gas.

At the United Church Rev. C. J. Bell, representative of the Ontario Prohibition Union, gave a splendid discourse pointing out the weakness of the Liquor Control Act, and its failure to stop the evils of alcohol and drinking of intoxicants.

Toronto's population is now 585,828.

### 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 28, 1879

There died at his residence in St. Marys this week one of the oldest Gospel ministers in the Dominion, the Rev. Joseph Messmore. He was 82 years of age and entered the ministry of the Methodist church in 1828.

At the public meeting for the purpose of making Mrs. Danford Swackhammer the recipient of donations the following articles were presented: 400 pounds of flour, one bag of peas, two bags of potatoes, five hams, three pieces of meat, also \$3.25 in cash. Mr. Edward Nicklin and Mr. Samuel Moore for the village of Acton, and Mr. Christopher Swackhammer and Mr. James McKenzie, for Church Hill, will solicit further aid for the widow and fatherless. We earnestly hope all will cast in their mite to alleviate the sorrow and cheer a desolate home.



Wilfred McEachern, left, was honored for his 15 years of continuous service as a member of the Acton Hydro-Electric Commission at the annual meeting of District 4, Ontario Municipal Electric Association, recently. He is shown receiving a certificate and gold cufflinks from Murray Greene, President of the OMEA, a province-wide association of Commissioners of municipal electric utilities.