



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor.

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Its Worth Proven

Prize lists posters and other publicity are now out for Acton Fall Fair, scheduled for September 17th and 18th this year. For twenty-one years Acton has been building each year a little better fair and naturally this year feel that they have arranged for even a better event to present to the public. These fairs are a community effort in a broad sense of the word. The community takes in the countryside for many miles. Rural and urban dwellers get together on common ground. The town dweller learns of the effort of the agriculturist and secures a better understanding. It is more than a couple of days of entertainment, and social gathering. The attraction of the big fairs are here in a small way, but there is an intimacy in the small fair that is always lacking in the larger centre. We find, too, that the exhibitor at the local fair has invariably been showing at the larger fairs and each year the quality of exhibits has been raised. Acton Fair has kept pace with the times. It has shown the progress essential to keep it attractive to an increasing number of visitors each year. It's our Fair. Let us do all we can to encourage and promote it. Its worthiness has been amply proven in two decades of service to town and country. Its officials have been untiring in their efforts to make it pleasing and better each year.

A Surprising Report

The meeting of the Public Utilities Commission on Tuesday evening revealed a rather contradictory state of affairs. The Commissioners were naturally as shocked to citizens generally to learn on a recent visit to the Ontario Commission that a report of February of this year had the Acton system in a "deplorable" condition. The visit following of an engineer from Toronto, and the accompanying letter says the system has been "fairly well maintained." Accompanying the letter, however, were recommendations for improvement, some of which have already been included on the program for the year, and others not on the list deemed more necessary than some of those recommended. The records show that each year goodly sums have been spent in maintaining Acton Hydro system and improving the service. Each year at the nomination meeting a very encouraging report has been given by the local Commission. The matter is further complicated when it is learned that no Ontario Hydro official had made a survey of the Acton system—until the one of a few weeks ago—for the past three years.

Another item that must have confused the Acton Commissioners was to be told that industrial conditions in Acton were not good. We doubt if any centre in the Province has industrial conditions any better than Acton, and certainly many towns have suffered more severely. Incidentally few can give as small figures for relief purposes. The whole thing looks so ridiculous that the report as given at the meeting last week will also be a surprise to Actonians generally. It is certainly not based on facts as known locally but rather appears as deduced from rather obsolete figures or a studied misrepresentation. Acton's record needs to be cleared in the head office of Hydro.

Extremes

In a check-up of speed of motorists in one section of the Province it is reported that an officer followed one car through villages, where signs designated the speed limit at 15 miles per hour, and the motorist travelled at 58 miles per hour. Apparently two extremes. Of course 20 miles per hour is the legal speed limit in any village, town or city, and in some of these places where speed limit signs of 15 miles per hour are displayed the status of a village, town or city has not been obtained, and the limit with regard to speed, if traffic would warrant, would be the same as on the highway. But the motorist, who travelled at 58 miles per hour through centres certainly had very little sense of responsibility. Traffic officers and courts have been very lenient in the past in dealing with these offenders. Speeds set are speed limits. Suspension of licenses would have a very salutary effect on some drivers in passing through populated centres. Some highway signs also need to be brought up-to-date in regard to the regulations.

One Way to Figure It

The Cornwall Frecholder makes the following interesting statistical computation, with its inevitable reflection upon the extremes to which we have gone in making people financially dependent upon the public exchequer:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Value. Population in Canada: 10,000,000; Eligible for Pension Fund: 3,000,000; 7,000,000; Number who are prohibited from working under Child Labor Laws: 1,500,000; 5,500,000; Number who are working for Government Agencies: 2,000,000; 3,500,000; Number of Federal and Dominion members, with their staffs of yes men and lobbyists: 1,500,000; 2,000,000; Number seeking relief who could work and won't: 1,000,008; Leaving to produce the Nation's goods (you and me and I'm all worn out): 2

EDITORIAL NOTES

The answer is invariably in the affirmative to the query, "Have you been to the Ex?"

Just around the corner—Acton Fall Fair. It follows closely on the Exhibition each year.

Once again the problem of time is confusing. Spring and Fall will soon be noted for this inconvenience.

Hydro rates have been reduced in Smiths Falls. Incidentally there is no service charge in this community, but the rate is higher than in Acton.

A perusal of the press would seem to indicate that a lot of folks are rather skeptical of the new Alberta Government, but are willing to be shown.

Construction contracts awarded in Canada during July totalled \$18,549,200, compared with \$18,521,400 in June, according to a review issued by MacLean Building Reports, Ltd.

The rumors of war still make the headlines of the daily press. As long as the rumors are the only headlines the populace will be satisfied. It is much preferable to casualty lists and the recording of losses of battles.

The Simcoe Reformer has been conducting a straw vote on the election. Last week it ran, Liberal, 48%; Conservative, 27%; C. C. F., 9%; National, 9%; Reconstruction, 7%. That's just in one section of Ontario.

The political propaganda machines are working overtime just now, with headquarters filling every newspaper wastepaper basket in the country. The new parties are even outdoing the old parties in this respect.

These ticket sellers on big prize lotteries from out-of-town points become quite a nuisance. The average municipality has sufficient of these within its own borders to keep all the small change out of the pocket of most business men.

Hon. R. B. Bennett is credited with saying that "I will make capitalism your servant, not your master." And then along comes another chap who informs us that in the last five years Canada has created 603 new millionaires and that Mr. Bennett's holdings have been increased by about 14 millions. Before October 14th these election statements will be more confusing than ever.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

LYDIA AND PRISCILLA (CHRISTIAN WOMEN IN INDUSTRIAL LIFE)

Golden Text.—Give her the fruit of her hands; and let her works praise her in the gates. Prov. 31: 31.

Lesson Text.—Ac. 16: 11-15; 18: 1-3; 24-28. Study also, Mat. 24: 38-44; Titus 2: 1-8; Prov. 31: 23-31.

Time.—A. D. 52. Places.—Philippi and Corinth.

Exposition.—I. The First Convert in Europe.

Under the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit, Paul is called to preach in Macedonia (vs. 9-11). Step by step God leads His servant on. The means He used were various: the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit, a vision (comp. ch. 16: 9-12; 18: 10-17, 30; 19: 8, 10; 22: 17-21; 27: 23, 24; 2 Cor. 12: 1-4; 13: 2; 17), his own judgment (v. 10, R. V.). The promptness with which Paul responded to the guidance of God, no matter how it came, is worthy not only of special note, but of careful and constant imitation. In such prompt and exact obedience is found one of the greatest secrets not only of a happy, but an efficient life. If we respond at once to God's leading, it becomes clearer and clearer. If we falter, the guiding light grows dimmer and dimmer until it goes out in thick darkness, and we are left to grope our way as best we can. "Come over into Macedonia, and help me." What an outcast, wandering Jew help proud and potent Macedonians, especially people of the Macedonians, colony Philippi? Yes, for he was the bearer of that in which alone is help for man—the Gospel. When Paul heard that cry he knew it was the preaching of the Gospel that was called for (v. 10). Paul lost no time in starting for the field to which the Lord had called him. There had been no supernatural direction as to what part of Macedonia he was to begin at. So Paul used his common sense and went straight for the first city of the district (R. V.). It is true Christian strategy to begin at the great centers of population and political and commercial life, and work out from them. Paul and his companions did not begin preaching at once (v. 13, R. V.). They waited and watched, and doubtless prayed for a favorable time and place to strike the first blow (comp. ch. 13: 14; 17: 3; 18: 4). They began at last, in a very quiet and humble way. It is not always the work that begins with the biggest blare of trumpets that produces the largest and most permanent results. They did not advertise largely, and get a great crowd into the largest public building. They just spoke to an obscure but earnest company of praying women. Someone has said the "man of Macedonia" turned out to be a woman; it may have been the Philippian jailer. Be that as it may, the work of European evangelization began with a handful of praying women. That was one of the most notable gatherings of all history. The word spoken resulted in the conversion of a prominent and pious woman, Lydia, "WHOSE HEART THE LORD OPENED" (v. 14).

There is no hope for any woman or man, either, unless the Lord opens their heart (Jno. 6: 44, 45; Eph. 1: 17, 18; Lu. 24: 45). But this He is more than willing to do. The steps in Lydia's conversion are very plainly marked and typical. (1) She went out to pray (v. 13). (2) She heard the Word (v. 14, comp. Jno. 5: 24). (3) The Lord opened her heart. (4) She gave heed unto the things which were spoken (v. 14, R. V.). (5) She was baptized (v. 15; comp. ch. 2: 41; Mk. 16: 16). Lydia carried her whole household with her (vs. 31, 33; 1 Cor. 1: 16). Lydia's heart went out in gratitude toward those whom God had used as instruments in her conversion and she constrained them to come into her house and abide there.

II. Paul Meets Priscilla, 18: 1-4. From Athens, the city of culture, Paul goes to Corinth, the city of commerce, architecture, wealth, luxury, and notorious immorality, the city of vice. EXCELLENCE in the Roman world. Here he first meets with Aquila and his wife Priscilla, who becomes very important members of the early Christian Church (see v. 26; Ro. 16: 3, 4; 1 Cor. 16: 19; 2 Tim. 4: 19). It was an apparent insignificant matter that brought Paul into contact with them—"he was of the same trade." But God uses things just like this for the promotion of His kingdom. It would be well if we would make more of them for the same purpose. Are you a merchant? Make a point of getting hold of merchants for Christ. Are you a blacksmith? Cultivate the blacksmiths. An unrighteous edict Claudius had driven Aquila and Priscilla out of Rome. It doubtless seemed to them a bitter thing, but God turned it to their good, to no less a good than their eternal salvation (cf. vs. 26; 10). There are men to-day who think it wrong, "a lack of faith," to do manual labor or any menial work for their own support or that of their families, because God has "called" them to preach. If there was ever a man about whose call to preach there could be no possible doubt, it is this man Paul, and yet he wrought with his hands (cf. ch. 20: 34, 35). He got right down to honest toil and kept a wholesome example for the Church and for us (1 Cor. 9: 6-12; 2 Thes. 3: 8, 9; 1 Thea. 2: 9). But the Jews were not willing to receive Paul's testimony. "They opposed themselves and blasphemed." The most faithful testimony will often be received

CANADIAN PEACHES

Commercial production of peaches in Canada is confined to two provinces, Ontario and British Columbia. Ontario supplies an average of 729,000 bushels annually, or 90 per cent. of the total production during the five years, 1929-33. During the same period the production in British Columbia averaged 58,000 bushels annually. There has been a decline in both bearing and non-bearing acreage as shown by the census over the past twenty years, but the present tendency in Ontario and British Columbia is toward a slight increase in acreage.

As a result of reduced production in Ontario in 1934 and an active demand on the part of the canning industry, the crop moved very readily at approximately a 50 per cent. increase in price over 1933 returns. In spite of an estimated increase of 90 per cent. in fresh peach imports. The Canadian production of peaches in 1934 totalled 467,000 bushels and preliminary figures place the 1935 crop at 712,000 bushels.

KNEW THEM WELL

Paul Visitor—It seems to know everybody that is anybody! Is he a society editor?

Mr. Sparkley—Oh, no—he's the constable that arrests them for speeding!

In that way. That does not prove it untrue, or that it has been unwisely put. It simply shows the thoroughgoing badness of the hearts of even religious men. But Paul's testimony was not in vain, after all. A large and singularly gifted church grew up in Corinth, in the establishment and consolidation of which Priscilla and her husband Aquila had a conspicuous share.

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Advertisement for Onions, Bananas, Apples, and Canteloupe. Includes prices and the address 'Mill Street Phone 158 Acton, Ontario'.