



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARNOFF DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

Another Improvement—Thanks! It will come as welcome news to Actonians and all those who use the highway through here that the C. N. R. crossing on Mill Street is to be levelled and made in better condition. As we understand it, the tracks are to be brought up to one level and a proper grade made on each side. It is to be hoped when this is done that another decision will not be made by the railway engineers to make a higher level for the main line, as was done when the other grade was made. When the work is completed the Council of 1935 and the railway officials will have the thanks of all who have from time to time bumped over this crossing.

Next Week—Fair Week

Next week will be Acton Fair Week and the next issue of THE FREE PRESS will tell of the 1935 Acton Fair. Directors and Officers have been untiring in their efforts to make the event this year set new high standards. Wherever improvement was possible to carry out changes have been made to improve the Fair. Prize lists have been altered and enlarged. New attractions have been sought to please those attending and, granted good weather next Tuesday and Wednesday, the culmination of these efforts will be witnessed by thousands who each year find a delight in Acton Fair and its attractions. It has developed into a real gathering place for friends from far and near. It has all the feature of a reunion with a variety of attractions that no other event can come near. Acton Fair has been growing for twenty-two years. Its continued success depends on the co-operative way in which we all support and encourage it. The programs have proved worthy of attendance and 1935 gives full promise of topping all past efforts.

Links That Hold

Another link in the connection between the two Actons will be formed when Dr. Smart visits the Canadian Acton in early October and presents a British Flag from the motherland and the town from which we derive our name. The first connection between the two towns of course dates back to the time when the late Robert Swan, Acton's first postmaster, named the community "Acton," but the recent revival of this very pleasant connection was made by the late H. P. Moore, when he visited the Old Land about eleven years ago. Since then there have been many pleasant links. Sir Harry Brittain presented to Acton a crest of Acton, England, painted on English oak. Acton reciprocated and presented a flag to the Borough of Acton, through Rev. Dr. T. Albert Moore. Sir Harry Brittain made a very pleasant visit to the Acton in Canada, and now Dr. J. E. Smart will be the bearer of greetings from England early next month. These are the links that keep us bound closely together. Most of us have never had the opportunity of visiting Acton, England, yet we feel a sort of acquaintanceship that makes us desire to extend a welcome to Dr. Smart and to meet him on his visit to Acton. The booklets forwarded have been viewed with a great deal of interest by many since they have been on view in THE FREE PRESS window.

Officers' Mess

Certainly we know the meaning of the term, but it seemed so striking on Saturday evening that we can't help but apply it as a heading for this article. It happened during the closing ceremonies of the great C. N. E.—just as we were commenting on not noting many intoxicated persons during our visits to the fair and the good order maintained. The color-bearers of the various regiments were gathered about the big flag near the bandstand. The Boy-Scouts held their flags at attention and the sight was indeed inspiring and one long to be remembered. But there was one standard bearer in a khaki uniform who held his flag at an angle entirely different from the rest. It acted as a sort of prop and the folds of the flag draped about his neck and shoulders. Occasionally the prop was called upon to stop the incline of the weary (?) bearer. Always he caught himself on that handy prop just when he seemed about to pitch forward. On the command for change of positions of the flags he was just a little slower than the rest. He eventually got there but when the ensigns were dipped, it looked as if the dip would be the last straw to his equilibrium. We don't know, precisely what his trouble was, but we have our suspicions. His regiment could hardly be proud of him. He spoiled a very impressive service for those who could see him. He was an officer, and he was a mess. That's the sense in which we use the heading.

First, Middle and Last

That's the order of the days in which we attended the Canadian National Exhibition. We were there on the opening day—again on Press Day—and finally attending the closing ceremonies on Saturday. Each time we felt amply repaid for our visits. On the opening day the flowers, ground exhibits were all fresh and beautiful. On the closing day the grounds were a bit more trampled as a result of the attendance, but the place was still beautiful. True, the paint wasn't as clean, but the flowers still had beauty. The workers seemed a bit more weary, but were just as courteous and attentive. And Col. Deacon and his officers seemed just as enthusiastic at the close as when we saw him about the grounds on that first day, and perhaps his look was not so worried.

The closing of the C. N. E. is something we have wanted to see for some years and yet not witnessed until this year. That assemblage in the grounds about the stand. The message of thankfulness from the President, and the note of cheer; the prayer by Rev. Dr. Sedgwick, and the final selections by the band and the lowering of the flag, emblematic of the closing of the 1935 C. N. E. are something just a little out of the ordinary in the nature of exhibitions. There's always a note of sincerity about the affairs of the C. N. E. First things are not forgotten or neglected. The ballyho of the midway doesn't overrun the grounds. Everything seems to have its place. In the banquet room of the administration building a very appropriate motto adorns the wall, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." There seems to be an environment about each exhibit that lends an appropriateness. Perhaps that is an important part in the success of the C. N. E. There must be something, and there is, that makes this yearly attraction outstanding.

EDITORIAL NOTES

And after the fairs, the election, and after the election, Thanksgiving.

The Fairs are going to provide a great place for political candidates to meet the countryside. Be sure to invite the candidates all back again next year.

The date selected for Thanksgiving Day for 1935 does not seem to be growing in popularity. And in a year, too, when most politicians want to be popular!

And now the local Fair Boards will be having an anxious time until the days are over and have been graced with good weather and added another success.

The ball playing for the season is about over and with one team in the runner-up position for play-offs and the other winning their group, the local fans can look back in 1935 as not too bad a year.

The business places on Mill Street no doubt appreciate the thoughtfulness of Contractor Bell in not cutting off entrance to stores during the sidewalk construction. The new work has been carried on with a minimum of inconvenience.

Political parties are spending a great deal of money in radio broadcasts of their election campaign propaganda. But does it pay? We doubt it. The people depend upon the newspapers. In one case following a radio address by a political leader 20 people were asked next day whether they had listened in, and only six actually done so. On the occasion, according to the Lindsay Post, of Mr. King's third radio talk, 188 telephone numbers, selected at random to avoid unfairness, were called, with the following startling result: Absent from home, 84; have no radio, 8; radio not in use, 65; not listening to King, 21; listening to King, 10.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

TIMOTHY (A CHRISTIAN WORKER IN TRAINING)

Golden Text.—Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth.—2 Tim. 2: 15.

Lesson Text.—2 Tim. 1: 1-14. Verses 1-9 printed here. Study, also, the entire Epistle.

Time.—A. D. 67-68. Place.—Rome. Exposition.—I. Timothy, Paul's "Dear-Beloved Son," 1, 6.

Reading between the lines, one sees with especial clearness how much this young disciple, on whom the great apostle came to lean so heavily after he had become "Paul the aged," owed to his mother and grandmother. The shining example of these godly, believing women should be emulated by every woman in Christ's Church to whom the care of children has been entrusted. None are too young to be told the story of Jesus, and the records show beyond all shadow of contradiction that the great champions of the truth, in all ages of the Church, have been, very largely, those who, in early years, were instructed by their mothers and grandmothers in the knowledge and admiration of the Lord. Paul's interest in young Timothy was special and unique (v. 6). The whole family, to which he belonged had been converted on Paul's first missionary visit to Lystra. The great apostle to the Gentiles was, at this time, involved in a controversy with the Jerusalem church concerning the question of Gentile converts' freedom from the ordinances of circumcision and other distinctly Jewish observances (Acts 15: 1-29). The baptism of Gentiles by Paul on his first missionary journey, without requiring them to be circumcised or to keep the Law, was keenly criticized at Jerusalem by the Pharise party within the Church. Some of the malcontents came to Antioch teaching that "except ye be circumcised, after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved" (Acts 15: 1). Doubtless, this controversy in the Church influenced Paul in his attitude towards young Timothy. Finding the young man favorably regarded by certain of the brethren residing at Lystra and Iconium, Paul desired to have Timothy proceed with him on his journey through Asia Minor. But because of the opposition of those good and godly women; he was aware of their prayerfulness, humility, and fellowship with God. All these the qualities went to recommend the views they held, and which they had taught to Timothy. Timothy's mother had begun at the right time with him—in babyhood. Note well, here, what Paul says the Holy Scriptures (the sacred writings, R. V.) have the power to do. Therein lies their pre-eminence over all other books, all other writings. Paul here, of course, is referring to the Old Testament which, when read in the light of the faith of Christ Jesus coupled with implicit trust in Him, give sufficient instruction for salvation. There is more power in the Bible to impart the wisdom that brings life eternal, than in all the rest of the literature of the ages. It is through bringing us the faith that is rooted in Christ Jesus that the Scriptures make us wise unto salvation. There is no way to salvation except by faith in Christ Jesus (Acts 4: 13; John 3: 26), and the Bible is the instrument which God has chosen and appointed to bring us to a knowledge and apprehension of that faith (John 20: 31; 5: 24; Romans 10: 17; 1 Peter 1: 23; Jas. 1: 18). Paul declares that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God." This does not agree with the theories of a great number of those who profess to possess credentials which warrant their issuing a pronouncement. The words in v. 18 admit of being juggled with, and the thing has been done. The change in the R. V. was not made for linguistic but for theological reasons. The translation of the R. V. is a very remotely possible one, but not that, naturally suggested by the order of the words and their relation one to another. But those who do not like Paul's doctrine cannot get rid of it by merely mistranslating this one passage in the second epistle of the apostle to Timothy (2 Sam. 23: 2; Mary 13: 36; John 10: 95; Acts 1: 16; 28: 25; Romans 15: 4; Heb. 3: 7; 2 Peter 1: 21). This "God-breathed" Scripture is profitable for four all-important purposes: teaching, reproof, restoration to an upright state, instructive (training) in righteousness. The outcome of the study of Scripture is that the heart of God becomes "completely" filled with "good work" (v. 17, R. V.). The lack of fitness for engaging in various forms of Christian activity, to-day, comes almost entirely from a neglect

and a lack of knowledge of Holy Scripture. There is a crying need in the Church of God, to-day, not only for a return to the more diligent study of Holy Scripture, but to a prompt and unquestioning acceptance of, and submission to its teachings when definitely ascertained. These teachings may appear to us unreasonable or impossible, nevertheless we should accept them. If the Bible is the Word of God, how foolish it is to submit its teachings to the criticism of our finite reasoning. A little boy who discredits his wise father's statements simply because to his infant mind they appear unreasonable, is not a philosopher, but a young fool. But the greatest of human thinkers is only an infant compared with the infinite God. And to discredit God's statements found in His Word because they appear unreasonable to our infantile minds is not to act the part of the philosopher, but the part of a fool. When we are once satisfied that the Bible is the Word of God, its clear teachings must be for us the end of all controversy and discussion. As we should strive to be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving our own souls (Jas. 1: 22). Nothing goes further to help one understand the Bible than the purpose to obey it. Jesus said, "If any man will to do his will, he shall know of the teaching" (John 7: 17, R. V.). "The surrender" will mean the clear eye. If our eye is single (that is, our will is absolutely surrendered to God) our whole body shall be full of light. But if our eye be evil (that is, if we are trying to serve two masters and are not absolutely surrendered to one Master, God) our whole body shall be full of darkness (Matt. 6: 22-24).

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Good-breeding is surface Christianity. O. W. Holmes.

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