



The Acton Free Press

Published Every Thursday at Acton, Ontario

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor.

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EDITORIAL

Pioneering
Next week a Y. M. C. A. will be opened in a community that is the smallest in the Dominion to carry on this work. The new building will be formally dedicated and the following days will see a start in the program. Acton is pioneering in this work in the smaller communities. Needless to say, other small centres will watch the work with a great deal of interest. The success or otherwise here will possibly mean the extension of this work to a new sphere. Acton's Y. M. C. A. program will be watched. Right now inquiry is being received from other municipalities of like size. Next week is the opening. It requires the co-operation of all the community at that time and throughout the weeks and years that will follow that its greatest good may be accomplished. It is an opportunity and Acton cannot well afford to fail. We are pioneering and we need the perseverance and stability of pioneers to accomplish success.

Serious Promises?
Even the suggestion of pensioning all workers at sixty raises quite an argument on both sides of the question. It would seem that the workers don't want to be pensioned and the shirkers would take it at any age. Any one who has actually been a worker up to the age of sixty has acquired a habit of industry that is hard to break unless ill health prevents its continuance. And the same could be said of the individual who has spent a life-time acquiring the habit of dodging work. As long as individuals are so differently constituted it would seem a difficult matter to make retirement at any specified age compulsory. Perhaps—and maybe after all these reforms advocated at election time should not be taken seriously at all. Memory won't need to be long to refer from one election to another and recall how many of the reforms advocated on the platforms actually come into operation. Even Mr. Aberhart's first work before handing out his bonus, or whatever it is termed, was a visit to make a loan.

Another Link in a Chain of Successes
Officers and Directors who have had the conduct of Acton Fair in their charge may feel justifiably proud of the event of 1935. The weather was truly very much in their favor, but their program and management of the Fair made it one most enjoyable. The arrangement of the grounds was well planned. There was a very evident desire to keep the program up to a schedule and provide sufficient to entertain the gathering for both the evening and the afternoon. In fact, it would be difficult to offer little or any criticism. That success attended these efforts and the Fair has the support of town and countryside for miles around was evidenced by the crowds that attended. Acton Fair has for years been establishing a good reputation among the local fairs. The event just passed can be regarded as one that adds to this long link of successes and leaves some records that will be hard to surpass. It was another example of fine co-operative community effort and the field of united action covered quite a bit of territory.

A Happy Position
According to newspaper dispatches industry in Simcoe is in a very flourishing state and that news would come as very welcome, not only to those who know this fine town but the general public. It called to mind a review of our own local conditions and it would seem that Acton did not need to take a back seat, industrially, either. The Beardmore plant is running well and giving steady employment, and a new dry loft is duplicating the size of the one now in use. The Storey Glove Co. is running at capacity, with more employees than at any other time and the Mason Knitting Co. has for months had the capacity of the mill booked for the year and is running overtime in an effort to meet the demand. These are only the major industries, and others of smaller size are in like condition. Fortunately indeed is the town whose industries are giving their quota of employment and have a payroll of regularity. In this respect Acton shares the same happy position as Simcoe on a smaller scale, and the result is that few houses are available for rent and some building and expansion has been found advisable.

Canadian Building Gains
Construction contracts awarded throughout Canada during August totalled \$23,837,400 compared with \$18,540,200 in July, an increase of more than \$5,000,000 according to figures compiled by MacLean Building Reports Limited. Contracts awarded in the first eight months of 1935 had a value of \$117,981,100 compared with \$85,051,100 in the corresponding period of 1934, and \$55,043,800 in 1933. Quebec led the provinces in the August returns with contracts awarded to the value of \$11,313,700, followed by Ontario with \$6,763,100, Nova Scotia with \$2,655,100, British Columbia \$1,450,900, Saskatchewan \$701,400, Alberta \$366,500, Manitoba \$368,600, New Brunswick \$238,000 and Prince Edward Island \$70,200. Normally there is a decline in construction awards in the late summer but this has been offset this year by large engineering contracts in the Province of Quebec. During August contracts awarded throughout the Dominion included 226 engineering projects, totalling \$14,122,000, business construction to the value of \$5,423,800, residential construction made up of 22 apartments and 1,097 residences totalling \$3,460,000, and industrial construction \$940,800.

Business Conditions
In its current monthly summary the Bank of Montreal has this to say regarding business conditions in Canada: "A substantial rise in wheat prices and an increase in wheat exports are developments which, if maintained, will have an important and constructive influence upon the general upward movement of trade that has been in evidence for some months. August exports of wheat rose in volume from 14,709,675 bushels to 21,698,284 bushels and in value from \$12,868,422 to \$17,603,969, the comparisons being with the August showing of last year. There has been a further though not a consistent improvement during the present month, together with an upward trend in prices to the highest levels since August of 1934. In addition to the improvements in the movement of wheat to overseas markets, there has been a substantial improvement in general export trade. In August the value of the Dominion's foreign commerce was \$120,297,899, compared with \$104,653,584 in the previous month and with \$98,756,706 in August of last year. The August level was the highest since May of 1931, and the favorable trade balance at \$21,177,773 was the highest for any August since 1925, though imports as well as exports were higher in value."

EDITORIAL NOTES
"One thing is certain," says an exchange, "if a town does not look a good place to live in, it isn't."
Judging by the way the political posters of both parties are torn down, both sides seem to have quite a destructive following.

The war clouds still hover around. Some days quite threatening and then other times with a ray of light and hope of peace piercing them.

With less than three weeks to go, the political activity can be said to be warming up a bit, and actually evidence of the election is to be seen.

Mr. R. A. Forrester, formerly of Beeton, has purchased the Oakville Star, and is now in charge. Halton newspaper men will welcome Mr. Forrester to their ranks and wish him success in the guidance of "The Star."

An exchange says that "a lot of fellows who spout about capital and labor never had any capital, never employed, or tried to employ anyone, and never did any labor."
A mass of 600 tons of rock fell from Gibraltar into the sea. What ever became of the old-fashioned Gibraltar that had the strength of an insurance company?—Detroit-News.

The improvements on Mill Street will add materially to the general good name for neatness that Acton usually enjoys. The Council is to be commended for its arrangements.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for Acton Free Press GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

Last week I was telling you we had got our car fixed up ready to go on the road again, and so, of course, this week I have been adventuring at the wheel and it has done me more good than a wagon load of medicine. There are some birds that never thrive in captivity—I guess I must be one of them!
Anyway, it was just grand to be out again—why, it was even a thrill to go down town and do my own shopping; over to the bank to buy prosaic things like peppers for pickles.

Having been released I was naturally anxious to make the most of my liberty and so when an invitation came for Partner and I to attend a local fair, we were only too glad to accept the invitation and the offer of a drive.
It was a glorious day, warm and sunny, absolutely ideal weather for a country fair. The twelve-mile drive through wooded country, is one that I always specially enjoy. It is joyful, and any time over a few weeks' time it will be even more beautiful when the trees and bushes will have taken on their heart-warming autumn tints.

At the fair, there was the usual line of exhibits—horses, livestock, handicraft, baking—and pots. All these were very commendable, but what Partner and I particularly noticed was the evidence of good organization. The fair grounds were in splendid condition which added so much to one's enjoyment. We have been to fairs where the ground was so rough it was more like walking in a pasture field, but at this fair the grounds were more like a spacious lawn. We have been to a good many fairs in our time—in England, and Canada—and as we naturally take an interest in these things, we feel we are at least qualified to express an opinion.

The buildings, we noticed, were very clean and in good repair. The hall exhibits were well displayed and the baking and canned goods most attractively set out.
We liked the idea of the poultry exhibits being placed outside, because one needs to be a very decided poultry enthusiast to take any real interest or pleasure in feathered fowl confined in a stuffy building, generally inadequate in size.

Partner was not particularly interested in the exhibit of children's pets, as he says he sees quite enough cats in his own stable, but I just loved the darling little kittens that were still good-natured enough to play, in spite of their close quarters. And the puppies were also ever so cute, except one poor little fellow that was shut up in a crate that was far too small for him, and was letting everybody know about it.
All the farm live stock was good and well managed, including those in charge of the young lads. One feature we particularly liked was the prize winning stock parade in front of the grandstand. I think even town-bred people must get quite a thrill in seeing well-groomed, spirited horses and a fine array of cattle and calves.

The agricultural fairs in England are exhibits go, but instead of trials of speed as we have them here, in England they have exhibits of good horsemanship—that is riding in the saddle. There are also more high-jumping contests, tent-pegging and obstacle races—all horse-back riding. Another characteristic English feature is sheep-herding, when one had an opportunity of watching clever sheep dogs at work as with unbelievable skill and gentleness they would round up the sheep that were in their charge until every one of them was in its appointed pen—and all done so unobtrusively that it was hard to believe that the dog by his shepherd-master.

But to get back to our local fair. Perhaps no one will think what I have written particularly interesting, but I wanted to give you the impressions of comparative strangers. A local fair is rather like a show window—the goods displayed and the way in which they are set out are indications of the character of the people. A good fair is never found in a poor-spirited community—a poor fair is impossible where there are live enthusiasts; where there are leaders, men and women anxious to help with brain and brawn; ready to put forth every effort to make their fair a real success; and the chief reason for so doing is loyalty—"This is our fair—it must be a success!"

SLATS DIARY BY ROSS PARQUHAR

Friday—well Jake and me has gone in to the Junk business and are gathering old rags and bones and Iron and ect. and who we get about 17 hundred mov lbs. we will have a 'Tin of Junk' approximately.
Saturday—Ma got 1/2 sore at me and biters this morning becuz we made a Test of her Rubber Plant and the test failed. We tried to see how fur it wood stretch and it dident. Ma was very very much out of humor.

Sunday—When Pug Stevens cum to Sunday skool today he told the teacher he was late on acct. of his Muther being lch & the teacher was very sweet and act Pug if it was emny thing witch mite be ketching and and Pug replied and sed No he dident think so! His pa, told him it was a leven 1b. girl.

Tuesday—Herb Pooler says the world is divided into 2 kinds of men: Them witch is single and are zarry of it and them witch is married and are zarry of it.
Tuesday—Ma got in a hurry to nit, when I was cutting the grass in the yd. with the lon More and she wanted me to hurry & get throw before Dark and I sed to her Iloges was not 1111 in a day and she replied and sed they dident use lon More when Rome was bit.

Wednesday—Ma got a good-laff today when ma got a book witch she had sent for a few days a go. It was intitled, How to Think.
Thursday—Joe Ilix says its all rite to give a Woman 1/2 the road when you meet her driving a ottomobel. But the trouble is you never no just witch 1/2 she is libel to want.

The Many-Purpose Oil—Both in the house and stable there are scores of uses for Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. Use it for cuts, bruises, burns, scalds, the "gripes" of rheumatism and sciatica, sore throat and similar ailments and midups as ariflet munkind, and are equally amenable to the healing influence of this fine old remedy which has made thousands of firm friends during the past fifty years.

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