



The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

Early Floods

Floods this year did not wait until spring to work their havoc, but January rains have contributed to an earlier break-up and from many districts reports of damage are given. The flood in Ohio and the Mississippi Valley have caused the most destruction and hundreds of thousands of people are homeless and millions of dollars of property damage has been done.

In spite of all man may do to forestall damage, build walls and endeavor to keep in check the course of rivers, it seems that periodically he is defeated. The security that was thought safe against all emergencies proves insufficient and the rivers are masters of the situation. Reports of a great deal of suffering and hardship come from the flood areas. It appears that plenty of help is available, however, and Red Cross and organizations of the like are to the fore again in their work of caring for the sick and injured. At such a time the brotherhood of man usually comes to the top and spreads as far as the need may arise.

An Example?

Perhaps it may be going a bit to the extreme but certainly China is showing a desire to rid itself of the drug traffic. Rulers of that country are determined to exterminate the business. To do so they exterminate the leading traffickers. Last week at Peiping, in the presence of 50,000 people, 10,000 ounces of narcotics were burned and five of the leading drug manufacturers shot to death. We do not advocate the death penalty for the offence in Canada but certainly we might take an example and secure more rigid enforcement of present laws and a greater desire to do away with habits that lower the manhood and womanhood of the country.

The drug business in Canada is not its most serious problem. But in the liquor traffic we have one that we might well consider for more serious enforcement and curtailment. We just wonder if China isn't showing a desire to clean up what might with moderation be taken seriously here in Ontario. After all the betterment of its people should be the chief concern of the state and not the balancing of budgets.

Just as Good in Acton

For years Toronto has had its Y. M. C. A. As the drive for funds the past week or so would seem to indicate that these years have taught city folks that such institutions are beneficial and needful to the city and the upbuilding of its youth. Acton has been fortunate in securing a Y. M. C. A. and its success in a community of this size is more or less experimental. But a year of operation has shown its benefits and progress is being made. It needs the support of every citizen financially and morally and it will pay big dividends in the betterment of youth. The city investors met the needs. Are not the youth and young folks of Acton just as important as the youth of the city? The contribution need not be nearly as heavy as that required in the city. But in proportion the Y. needs support. Don't ask how much you can get out of it, but rather, how much good will come to the community through your investment. There is no big drive for funds required in Acton but the Y. M. C. A. needs an hundred regular adult members to carry the load for the program of the young folk. Don't await an invitation to join. Make your membership a regular item each year and the investment will prove just as good in Acton as the years have shown it to be in Toronto.

Good Years Ahead

Once again Fall Fairs start out on their rounds for 1937 with their first visible activity in the annual meeting. The past year has shown Acton Fair in splendid condition. The troublesome years of the past have been weathered and indications point to smoother sailing ahead. In considering future successes it would be well to credit those who kept the ship sailing in those difficult times. The editor was perhaps fortunate in being in line for the presidency this year rather than previously, when there were more difficulties to surmount.

A survey of figures at the annual meeting shows that the Fair in a community is quite an institution. For instance, \$1,300 of its proceeds went to the farmers in prize money awards. And the balance of the proceeds seemed pretty well distributed throughout the section. True, the balance on hand is not large, but that only evidences the activity of the organization. Throughout the countryside Acton has built up a splendid reputation for its annual Fall Fair. Directors for years have stressed its service rather than the accumulation of funds and the foundations have been well laid. It faces this year and the years to come with the assurance that it works co-operatively in the community's best interests and can anticipate continued years of progress and growth.

Not All on the Surface

We hear a great deal these days about the cancellation of the Hydro contracts. The matter seems to predominate at Queen's Park, and the Globe and Mail is not the least bit hesitant about its condemnation of the policy of the Government. The duty of governments in honoring debts has been thoroughly stressed. We, however, hear very little about the duty of the companies. We do not like the Farmers' Creditors Act or the Bankruptcy Act or any of these plans that repudiate, legitimate obligations. But perhaps these contracts were just some smart business deals. We're not just sure of that because the whole thing seems so tangled that even a Philadelphia lawyer could not unravel the problem. The companies are not apparently ready for peaceable negotiation and have taken the matter to the courts, where it has been partially disposed of. We hear a lot about the Government's policy being wrong. The question we haven't heard answered yet, were the contracts right in the first instance? Perhaps an acknowledgement on the part of the power companies would not be amiss if a peaceable settlement is to be made. It's a well-known fact that the presentation of a case before the courts has a good deal to do with the success of the case and a smart lawyer is generally worth his fee. It appears to us that the Hydro consumer needs the break, and for once it appears he is going to get it. But there's a lot that isn't being told in all the discussion. Perhaps if the Opposition had done their duty to the public in the first instance, the present opposition would not be necessary.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Coal production from Canadian mines during 1936 is estimated at fifteen million tons.

Judging by crowds at games at home and elsewhere, the fans hereabouts still take their hockey quite seriously.

"A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog when you are just as hungry as the dog."—Jack London.

Considering the number of ice storms this year, power interruptions have not been numerous, which would seem to indicate the lines were in good repair.

The strap is being used with good effect at Guelph Reformatory these days. Perhaps an earlier application in some of these lives would have saved some of the youth from being there.

The value of products of the Canadian slaughtering and meat packing industry sold during the year 1935 amounted to \$133,379,312, an increase of 9 per cent. over 1934 and 44 per cent. over 1933.

It seems as if this winter has provided just a little more than its share of ice and sleet. And to cope with the situation the application of sand has been very necessary very frequently.

It is apparent that the Boy Scouts have quite a group of enthusiastic supporters in Acton who appreciate the work being carried on. The banquet attendance on Saturday was about the largest held here in some time.

The work of the Y. M. C. A. is evidently very highly regarded in Toronto. In the annual drive for funds the response met the objective and went over the top. Acton is fortunate in having one of these splendid institutions and deserving of the support of all.

In the Editor's Back Fifty

This isn't a regular column but it may appear occasionally as a sort of third column on the Editorial page. It all depends on the fun mail we get. And in case you are in doubt as to the type of fun mail an editor likes, we'll tell you now—the kind accompanied by renewals and new subscriptions touches the heart most deeply.

Some of those at the annual meeting of Acton Fall Fair last week sort of wondered what right an editor had to be head of an Agricultural Society. Being First Vice-President last year, we sort of surmised we should have some proper qualifications for the job and set about accumulating the necessary attributes. Our back fifty is limited, therefore we selected the smallest of the barnyard stock—poultry.

I've heard there was money in poultry, and now we know there is, because we put a very limited amount of it in, and part of it is still there. Of course we selected the advertised poultry breeds and our first lot had two breeds—Black Giants and Plymouth Rocks. We believe in going in on the big scale.

In spite of all the care that was given these birds, casualties were pretty numerous and in order to make the brood have a fair appearance, we were forced to put in another lot, from yet another breeder. This bunch had a two weeks' start and cost a bit more—but they saved a lot in funeral expenses.

A visit to another poultry farm, and that breed of New Hampshire Reds looked cute and we decided that the chicken coop would hold more, so we added a third breed to the flock. The flock was more or less of a pecky pulchance during the summer, but fortunately the neighbors didn't want to go away the same week-ends as we did, and saved us from harsh treatment by the Humane Society.

We'd just bought chickens at all times, and so it developed that we had, out of the lot, twelve of the male species and a half-dozen biddies. Sunday dinners and Christmas were duly observed with the twelve racketeers who crowed so lustily every morning and too early for common town decency.

Just as the biddies were about to follow their brethren, the egg production plant started in operation. A new difficulty arose. Which ones were laying and which ones were not? Before this had been settled it was necessary to make a small coop to protect the flock from wintry winds. One Saturday afternoon a window frame and a pane of glass and other odds and ends did this. Of course it didn't cost hardly anything—only we seemed to be getting deeper and deeper into the poultry business.

And now what's happening? We are getting six eggs many days and one day one of the eggs weighed 3½ ounces and measured eight inches by six inches. There are three different breeds of poultry in the flock yet.

Before the flood of inquiries starts as to what we feed those chickens, and to forestall the request to give a testimonial on some radio program, we want to tell you they eat almost near everything, and the neighbors are terribly fond of them. Especially since the crows have been eliminated and only the chickens remain.

We tell the story for a couple of reasons. Perhaps first of all to give a tip to "ginger" your own success in our back fifty, and secondly to show that we have some right to be on a Fall Fair Board. We're not at all convinced, however, that we'll stay in the poultry business. And the first sign of strike among these remaining six is going to be a very severe lesson to them that for their own good they should never have stopped activities.

ACCURACY OF NEWSPAPERS

In an address on the making of newspapers, Frank R. Kent, veteran political writer of the Baltimore Sun, made this statement: "In no other business and in no other profession, save that of the pure scientist, is the premium on accuracy so high, the penalty of inaccuracy so prompt, and the proportion of accuracy so great." The truth of this statement is familiar to all who are engaged in the production of a newspaper and to a great proportion of the reading public who, while uninformed concerning the mechanical processes and the transmission of the news of the day as transmitted to the reading public, nevertheless recognize the reliability by far for the greater number of newspapers.

Where errors do occur, newspapers welcome the interest of readers in calling them to their attention. It is through the friendly co-operation of the reading public that newspapers are aided largely in their eternal endeavor to guard against inaccuracies.

It is interesting to recall in this connection the remark once made by so keen a critic as Woodrow Wilson, to the effect that, considering the complicated nature of the process of gathering and printing news, and the speed with which it is done, it is remarkable that newspapers make so few errors of any kind.

OUT ALSO

Minister (who is not popular in the parish) to little girl at door: "Is your mother in?" "No, she's out." "Is your father in?" "No, he's out." "Oh, well, I'll just come in and sit by the fire till they come in." "Ye needna bother, it's out taer!"

TEN YEARS OF CANADIAN AVIATION

Aviation is playing an increasingly important part in the transportation problems of Canada, and the use of aircraft in developing and conserving natural resources has increased each year. In 1925 there were only 30 licensed aircraft in the Dominion. By 1935 the figure had grown to 380 and to-day air-mail and air-transport lines are in operation in many parts of the country. In 1925, only a little over a half-million pounds of freight were carried by air. In 1933 the amount had grown to over 26,000,000 pounds, while mail-matter had grown from 1,080 pounds in 1925 to 1,126,084 pounds in 1935.

Commercial air transport has proved of immense value to Canadian mining. Aircraft are first used in preliminary surveys of new territory. Then they bring in prospectors and equipment before, or directly after, the spring "break-up" so that operations can start with one-tenth of the time that would be inevitable in long journeys by canoe. After this the aeroplanes bring drills and other gear for preliminary work, and carry men, supplies, and machinery in sections for subsequent development operations. Big cargo-planes are employed to carry out "concentrate" or bullion when a mine is in production, and aircraft are relied upon to service established mines, flying regularly to and from the nearest centre of supply.

Aerial survey work is another big field for civil aeroplanes in Canada. Air surveys are made for suggested transmission lines, for new roads in virgin country, for harbour works, and for town planning schemes. A vital part is also played by aircraft in connection with the Canadian fisheries. Planes are used in the stocking of lakes and marketing of fish. For the last ten years the salmon fisheries off the coast of British Columbia have been patrolled by air from June to October. In Canadian forestry engineers rely on air patrols for fire detection and suppression. Survey flights are made to check timber-limits; and by air photography. In a single flight, an engineer can obtain a complete record of cutting operations.

RISKS OF ROMANCE

Off hand there would seem to be little relation between marriage and reckless driving; but listen to Ray Ingels, Director of Motor Vehicles, State of California:

"Department records show many single men, formerly listed as habitual violators of traffic laws, who became model drivers after they were married. Perhaps the greater responsibility," continues M. Ingels, "curbs their reckless tendencies."

Or perhaps there is another reason. With marriage, for instance, a man's driving technique may undergo a decided change. Before, the task of manipulating the steering wheel, horn, brake, etc., sometimes is left to one hand, while the other rests affectionately about a companion's neck.

After the ceremony, the man not only has both hands free to operate his car, but he may be assisted by sharp directions from the back seat. Whatever the explanation, it is pleasant to know that Cupid can be an aid, as well as a detriment, to safe driving.—Exchange.

SCOTT'S SCRAPBOOK by R. J. SCOTT



Grim Search for Kidnap Clues Goes On



Combing every inch of ground within miles of where the tortured boy of little Charles Mattson was found, with almost microscopic vigilance, state police and federal agents sought the trail of the slayer while the hunt spread north to the international boundary and south into California with several suspects sought for questioning. State Trooper D. L. Stone is using his flashlight to examine the exact spot where the frozen body was found alongside the Everett, Wash., highway. —Central Press Canadian Photo

Convicts Riot, Wreck Interior of Guelph Reformatory



During and smashing until the interior of the institution was a mass of smouldering debris. 500 inmates of the Ontario Reformatory at Guelph, Ont., staged an eight-hour riot which ended only when guards, reinforced by provincial and city police, tossed tear gas bombs into the corridors and herded the smoke and gas-tortured convicts to the cells with the aid of fire hoses and extinguishers. Fires raged at 10 points inside the institution, set by prisoners who burned bedding and destroyed quantities of food and furniture. Two guards and 10 convicts were injured. All of the 42 prisoners, who escaped in the confusion were returned, with the government offering an amnesty to all who gave themselves up. Two of the prison inmates who took no part in the clashes are shown (TOP) quelling one fire in a corridor with buckets of water. Judicial inquiry has been ordered. —Central Press Canadian Photo