

Make the system work

The lack of a good communication system in itself is enough to undermine any otherwise excellent politician. With the political mood the way it is the need for good communications is underlined.

The onus for getting the work out falls squarely on the shoulders of the politician, be he an MP, working out of Ottawa, an MPP, working out of Toronto, a regional politician working out of Burlington or an area councillor working out of Milton's town hall or his or her home.

While no one can alleviate the politician at any level of his responsibility to tell of what is happening and why, everyone can assist.

Communication if it is to be worth while, has to be a two-way street. Rookie MP Frank Philbrook readily admits the need for better communication between himself and riding constituents.

The fact that Philbrook has to work from Ottawa and operate by almost a system of remote control makes it even more difficult for him than for provincial or regional politicians to stay in touch with the people.

Communications (getting the

message of what is being done and on the other hand getting the feel of what is being required at the constituency level) is one area that Philbrook's aides in the riding association have identified as being in need of improvement.

Philbrook, like most politicians, is anxious to get feedback on issues at the national and riding level. "Many people are reluctant to pick up the phone unless they really feel strongly about something. It's difficult to gauge the feeling of the riding because too often the only ones we hear from are the vocal minority."

People owe it to themselves and their political leaders at every level to make sure their feelings on any issue are being voiced.

It's just not good enough to let someone else make the phone call or write that letter. And it's not fair to criticize the actions and positions taken until you have authored a letter or made a phone call.

Give your politicians a break and let them in on your views. Who knows, they might listen. If they don't, then shout, holler and vote them out at your earliest opportunity.

Commenting briefly

Safety recognized

Congratulations to Indusmin's quarry near Limehouse for completing the year 1974 without a single lost-time accident.

Well, it's March

Mother Nature pulled her "April Fool" joke a little early this year. She allowed March to arrive in lamb-like fashion but within the first week of the month she was dishing out a taste of real Canadian-style winter, complete with a couple of inches of wet snow, winds and drifting, ice and slippery driving conditions.

Beating the cool

The "Smart set" of 1975 includes those who are holidaying in sunnier, southern climates, far from the blustery melange of weather than goes to make up an end-of-winter, start-of-spring March in southern Ontario.

Hospital price tag

Hospitals in Halton forecast their five-year needs for additions and expansions at a whopping \$26,000,000 until the Regional Council's administration committee shaved \$10,000,000 off that total. The remaining \$16,000,000 is still a pretty impressive price tag. Under the present system, Halton taxpayers will have to ante up a third of that total while the provincial coffers cover the remainder.

But regional council is presenting a grievance to the Ontario Cabinet today, suggesting the province should cover the entire cost of hospitals. We hope the appeal is successful.

Sweeping statement

Here's an exchange from Halton Hills Council, after a local department applied for \$94 worth of brooms:

"Have they taken up curling or broomball?" asked Councillor Ern Hyde. "Maybe they really want to clean up," cracked Mayor Tom Hill. Nobody asked if they planned to fly to the witches' convention.

More firefighters

We see where Chief A. E. Clement has applied for five more full time firefighters to bolster the two-man permanent staff of the local fire department. From personal experience we recognize that the administration, fire

prevention and firefighting work of the local brigade is growing daily. And extra firefighters will be needed to operate the new aerial pumper council has agreed to purchase. So the request sounds reasonable enough, although the cost will likely be the final deciding factor. Can we afford five more fulltime men? Can we afford NOT to engage them?

Racist vandalism

There's not supposed to be any racism in Ontario but recently a group calling themselves "white people's vigilantes" threw rocks through the window of Bromley Armstrong, a newly appointed human rights commissioner. There has been a series of incidents in the last year, including a phone message from white power advocates urging expulsion of visible minority groups, the defacing of a Sikh temple, disruption of a live television program with black participants by the Western Guard and injuries inflicted on some of those present, racial epithets repeatedly hurled at a junior hockey league player by other players' parents and other examples of wilful or thoughtless racism. Isn't it time the majority who repudiate such extremism stood up and made their voices clear about where our society really stands on this issue?

Teenager recognized

A 15-year-old Bronte boy has been awarded the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's first citation of merit, for discovering and reporting an oil spill at Oakville's BP Refinery which threatened to pollute Lake Ontario. Paul Young's "keen observation and equally keen sense of public and environmental responsibility" helped the refinery and Ministry prevent the spill from reaching the lake, Minister William Newman said as he presented the citation.

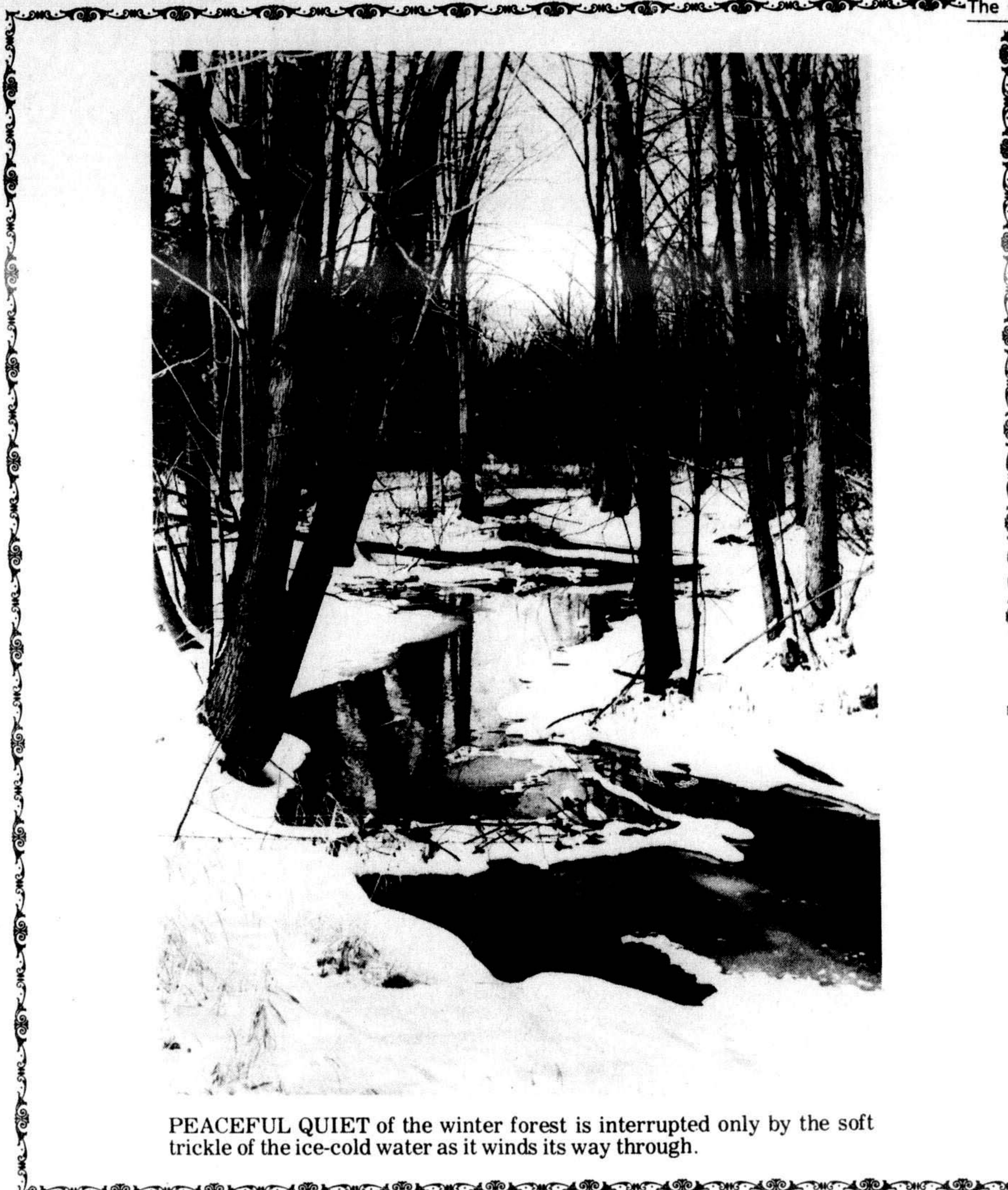
Now there's a teenager who recognized his duty and deserves the government's pat on the back for doing it.

Philosobits

by Edith Sharpe

Nature never makes haste, her systems revolve at an even pace. We can't hurry the sun to come up or to set, nor can we hurry the changing of the seasons. In time, nature's time, everything comes in its own good time. Why shouldn't we be as patient and try not to rush through life?

It is another's fault if he is ungrateful, but it is my fault if I do not give.



PEACEFUL QUIET of the winter forest is interrupted only by the soft trickle of the ice-cold water as it winds its way through.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Every year about this time, I turn a deep green, almost a turquoise shade, with pure, unadulterated envy.

This is brought about by that fairly new occasion in school life known as "Winter Break." It is a week's holiday during March, in which the poor, ground-down students, near a state of total exhaustion from not doing their homework, skipping school, and sleeping at their desks, have a chance to recharge their batteries for the terrible, gruelling term ahead, during which they will be worn to a frazzle from not doing their homework, skipping even more school because the weather is better, and falling in love because it's spring.

It's not that I have anything against winter break as such, or holidays in general. Far from it. If I had my way, we'd also have a fall break and a spring break and school four days a week for the rest of the time.

My envy is churned up by the seemingly limitless opportunities the rotten kids have these days to see the world, something I have desired fiercely since I was about four, and have never been able to fulfill.

You should hear the young blighters, in the classrooms and the corridors.

"Hi, Liz. Where y' goin' winnerbrake? We're go'na Greece."

"Hey, great. We're there lasyear. Snot bad. Lotta statutesstuff. We got inna the wine. Terry puked all overtha teach."

"Hey, great. But wearya goin' this year? Yer nawgunna jis stay homen get mouldy, arya?"

"Helno. I'm gonna Spain. Sounds great. Bullfighters and flemencos. Hey, whatsa flamenco? Trouble is, we got ole Droopy-Drawers ans wife for chaperones, and he allus wants goda museums an all tht."

"Yeah, tough. Oh well, he'll be dead by ten o'clock anya can sneak outa the hotel and hit the vino joints ana bullfighters anall."

"Ya. Rideon. Hay, javnee trouble geddin bread for your trip?"

"Na. Worked three weeks last summer an saved twenny bucks, before they fired me. Tole the oleman iddus discrimination caws Ise bedder lookin than the head waitress. He bleaved me. Then I tole im Ise gonna goda Manpower and geddanother job. He bleaved me. Tole Manpower I wannad a job as a go-go-girl. They didden havnee. So he put up the other four hunnert. He allus wannada travel himself, poor ole slob. He never even godda cross the border."

"Ya. Minesa same. He's allus tokkin bout South See Islands anthat. Antha Depression. Antha War. Drag. Putt him on a south sea island with a coconut in one hand, a broad in the other, ana lagoon in front ofim, an he wooden know which to take a bite outa. Kinda sad. Hey, wheres Timmy-nthem goin."

"Oh, they're gonna Russia. Good deal. They goddan extra week offa school. Swurth the extra hundred bucks."

Now, gentle reader, it's not as though our students actually talk like that. It's just that they sound as though they talk like that.

And I guess you can see that the foregoing conversation reflects quite vividly my bitter envy of these young punks who take off for Moscow and London and Rome with about as much awe as we used to have if we were going to spend a Saturday night in the nearest big town.

Aside from those who are flying to faraway, exotic places that you and I have only dreamed of, there are the others. Ask them what they're doing during winter break.

Jim: "Oh, I'm jis gonna smash aroun in the snowmobile a liddle ana maybe hit the pubs a few nights." The snowmobile cost

more than his father had saved in eight years for the first mortgage on his house.

Jeff: "Well, a few of us are gonna Colorado to ski. Snot bad. Just three hunnertadny bucks for a week." This is just twice what his father earned a month when Jeff was born.

So. Mixed with my envy is a good solid streak of rage. Rage that I was born at the wrong time, in the wrong place, in the wrong economic climate.

It took me 21 years, and a lot of hard, cheap labor, and the risking of my life many times, to get out of this country and see some of the great cities of the world, only to find them bleak and blacked-out.

I've been busting my butt ever since, raising a family and paying off mortgages, too busy and too broke to travel.

And yet . . . and yet . . . I feel almost sorry for these kids. It's all too easy. None of them can ever have the heart-thudding thrill I had when I first rolled into one of the great stations of London, England.

And none of them can ever have the heart-thudding thrill I had as I rolled out of one of the great Berlin stations, the bombs falling happily behind me.

Ottawa Report

By Dr. Frank Philbrook

HALTON MP



My wife Midge and I enjoyed a delightful evening in Erin on Saturday, March 1st when we attended a dance in the Legion Hall. About a hundred and twenty-five people were there and I had a chance to talk with most of them about general matters related to politics and government.

Earlier in the day I accompanied a group of Halton Hills businessmen into Toronto to meet with the Honorable Barney Danson, Minister of Urban Affairs and Housing. These constituency business people have some innovative ideas on housing which may prove to be quite beneficial to the housing industry. The Minister was quite impressed with the presentation offered by our Halton business people and I hope to see some of our products in use in the not too distant future.

That same Saturday morning I was in Toronto attending a course for Members of

Parliament on constituency affairs. The purpose of the course was to help people like myself make better use of the riding constituency office. We discussed unemployment insurance, pensions, small business legislation and the food prices review board, among other subjects.

More and more people are making use of the constituency office to pick up brochures and other information. It is located at 321 Lakeshore Road East in Oakville and the telephone number is 844-4146 or ZEB-9110. There is a surprisingly large number of French-speaking people in our riding, particularly in the Georgetown area of Halton Hills and, to a lesser degree, in Oakville. I am continuing to take French classes and am encouraged by the number of French-speaking people in the riding who use French when they come to see me or write to me at the House of Commons in Ottawa.

Philosobits

by Edith Sharpe

I believe there is a need for more kindness and thoughtfulness, not only in helping those less fortunate than ourselves, but for everyone. Usually we are only willing to be kind to those who are kind to us or when it's convenient for us. The real test of kindness is to extend it when it is difficult or inconvenient.

Look around at others, see them, and be kind and caring. We all need each other, whether we realize it or not. I heard someone say not long ago, "We have each other, who else do we need?" That to me is not a very good way to live and I hope I never get that independent or uncaring. Let me always need others in my life, let

me always be kind to others too and give a helping hand whenever I can.

Very often, I think, people are homesick for the past instead of for a place, or simply for a new way of life other than the one they are living now.

Live your life while you have it. Life is a splendid gift from God. Do not fritter away your days. Do something to serve a purpose to yourself and others. Do not live only for yourself, live to help others. We must all do our own thing and not let anyone rule our lives, but we must not forget we are needed.

Pages of the Past

From Champion Files

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, March 10, 1955

From the 43rd annual report of the John Milton Chapter, I.O.D.E.: The chapter held a Variety Night in the Town Hall of Milton on May 7. This included a sale of home-baking, plants and various articles made by the members. The skit "Just Women" was given as part of the evening's entertainment. The chapter also operated a very successful booth at the Milton Fair in September. Tickets were sold on two trays made by Mrs. G. Gastle and Mrs. G. F. Thompson. A parcel post sale was very popular. Twenty-three exhibits were entered by members under the I.O.D.E. card; of these 18 won prizes.

Rising education costs brought on by the expansion of Burlington and Nelson townships were given by Burlington Mayor E. W. Smith as the reason when he advocated a single school board for the entire area. "A single board for the high school and public schools for the entire area would solve many problems including school sites," his worship felt. "The cost of education is rising each year and there seems to be no end to it. It is the biggest item on our tax rate."

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, March 12, 1925

On account of an outbreak of scarlet fever in Burlington the east end school, except one room, has been closed until the 23rd.

Spring seems to be settling in earlier than usual. Sprouts from bulbs planted last fall are showing and a few snowdrops are in bloom. Yesterday Gordon Chisholm, Base Line, said he had seen a burdock shoot four inches above the ground. Wild geese are flying northward.

Mild weather has interfered greatly with winter sports here. There has been practically nothing going on at the arena for the last week and little curling at the rink.

Gabraith & Co. for house dresses, \$1.98 each. Horse for Sale: Young blocky mare, about 1250, or would exchange for colt or cattle. Ernest M. Readhead, Milton, phone 7-r-14, Lowville.

Milton's New Cafe—When in Milton get your eats at the Empire Cafe, opposite Princess Theatre.

On Monday evening Mrs. A. Armstrong got home from her visit of three months in England. She says she had a rough voyage.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, March 8, 1900

There will be no more curling in Milton this season. On Tuesday morning the roof of the rink, which was overloaded with snow, suddenly collapsed. Provisionally there was no one in the building at the time. Had the roof given way on Monday evening, when 32 curlers were playing, not a man would have escaped, for the whole of the roof fell, covering every foot of the ice. The roof has been in a shaky condition for years, the building was a death-trap, and curlers and skaters have reason to be thankful that none of them were caught in it. Local curlers propose to build a rink in another part of the town before the opening of next season. At a meeting held last night a committee was appointed to prepare plans and estimates and report next week.

The heavy snowstorms of last week were a great hindrance to railway traffic. A G.T.R. freight train of 32 cars, drawn by two engines, was brought to a stand-still while passing through this vicinity on Friday afternoon. The conductor in charge immediately sent for two more engines, and during the night the four mighty iron horses could be heard whistling and puffing in their efforts to get out of the drifts. The train was finally cut into sections and drawn to Burlington.

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