

Editorial Page

Rekindling an Old Fire

County Council's plan to establish a more equitable distribution of the voting power is quite a reasonable and feasible idea. But frankly we don't see any great importance in the problem.

Sectionalism in county affairs has dwindled from its early pinnacles where the north and south of the county did battle quite regularly on almost any subject.

But looking back over recent years we can't recall any county project or expenditure where the north may have used its recently acquired extra votes to defeat the south.

As it stands now, the Acton reeve and deputy hold three votes, Georgetown has four, Milton has three, Nassagaweya has two and Esqueping has four votes for a total of 16 in the county council. Each of the three southern municipalities has four votes for a total of 12 between Burlington, Oakville and Trafalgar. When Trafalgar took over Bronte and Burlington took over Nelson township, the votes of those municipalities were lost.

The basis for the objections to the county voting power at present is the south's share of the assessment and thus the payments to

the county as compared with the north.

Of this year's total estimated county expenditure of \$1,272,491.91, the southern three towns will contribute \$1,055,900.05 while the northern five municipalities will put in \$216,591.86.

On the basis of population too, the southern section far outweighs the northern section.

Halton is a county with an urban and rural patchwork. The urbanized sections are not restricted to the south but mix with the rural agricultural sections in the north. Quite possibly it is the growing realization of these similarities that have made county councillors more aware of the similar situations that develop in the north and south and more anxious to work co-operatively to settle them. In early Halton it was automatic for the north to oppose the south. That feeling has disappeared, we feel.

While we have no major objections to some equitable form of voting we dislike seeing the north and the south compared. It is on this basis that the old sectionalism and narrow mindedness could be rekindled.

Share Finger Pointing

There seems to be a disturbing increase in the number of Ontario municipalities where charges of irregularities are being levelled at elected or appointed officials.

It is disturbing because the administration of a community is surely one of the forms of government which should be closest to the people and to which the people should be closest. Unfortunately that is not always the case.

We might even ask just how close people in this town are to the operation of their municipality, not because we're suggesting there are irregularities, but as an insurance that irregularities are not given a chance to develop. Certainly nomination meetings at the end of the year don't attract a great measure of interest and the chairs at the weekly and monthly meetings of the local administrative groups are not largely occupied.

If irregularities develop within an administration there are two main reasons, in our opinion. First of all the rule book for operat-

ing municipalities is getting thicker all the time and there is a lot more room for often innocent irregularities through misinterpretation. The second main possibility is the apathetic attitude of a public to its own government and an unwillingness to study its functions.

We often wonder how many people who complain about zoning have inquired about the preparation of the by-law. We've often wondered how many know the functions of groups like the Committee of Adjustment, Parks Boards, Parking Authorities or Conservation Authorities.

Unless the people of every community in Ontario keep an interested eye on their municipal administration we're afraid the number of charges of irregularities may continue to have foundation. Probes and scandals are dangerous and expensive things with which no municipality has any desire to be associated. When they share the finger pointing along with the guilty.

Wanted: Greater Skills

Canadians can start breathing a little easier about their economy. But not too easily, according to a recent monthly bank letter.

In its current commercial letter, devoted entirely to a comprehensive analysis of the economy, the bank suggests that Canadians can expect a return to the pattern of expansion being pursued since 1958.

Indeed, the letter suggests, the recession of 1960 may not be as deep a retreat as a marketing of some of the economic indicators has suggested. It is possible that the recession may be imperceptible or that it may be so slight that it is hardly noticeable. It is expected to be a recession of a moderate nature, but one that is not likely to be as severe as the recession of 1958.

At the same time, we are passing through a technological revolution which calls for a higher degree and greater diversity of skills.

Vote by Boat?

The last time 6,800 inhabitants of Communist Eastern Germany fled across the border in Berlin to West Germany during Easter week, writes Mr. Floyd. This was 300 more than the 6,500 who made the same decision at Easter 1960. It was 3,000 more than the weekly average of 3,800 refugees per week recorded throughout 1960.

Given a little time, Dr. Castro doubtless will find himself plagued by Mr. Ulbricht's problem. It is only 90 miles from Cuba to Florida's Key West, less than that to the Bahamas or Jamaica or Haiti. Castro can deny elections to the Cuban people but before long many of them, to paraphrase Lenin, will be "voting by boat."



—Photo by Esther Taylor

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

My dad hung on grimly, but lost his business in the end. At fifty, he had a wife and five children, no job and no money. We made out. My mother took in boarders, sold home baking and pinched the pennies until they bled. My dad took any work he could get. I remember one job was selling coffins. He sold three in three months, and his total commissions were about \$60. Out of this he paid his car expenses, meals and lodgings, on the road.

When my mother presented my father with a red-faced, under-sized, squalling brat in June, 1920, the world was a fine place. The Great War was over, democracy had triumphed, prices were good, and that great leveller of society, the Model T, was about to start turning pious, sober men into red-faced, cursing maniacs.

The next decade was the time of the self-styled "lost generation"—the era of the flapper, the coon-skin coat, the rumble seat, the hip flask and jazz. But I'm afraid they didn't mean much to a skinny kid with freckles, growing up in a small town.

The things I remember are: the old silent movies, with the piano player thumping on the Williams; Tell over the chimney; endless summers of hot blue sky; two fat, homely little girls who used to gang up on me and kiss me after school; off for a family picnic every Sunday in the 1923 Chevy with the stunts; and my kid brother following me everywhere I went, to my unutterable rage and disgust.

That must have been just about the best decade the world and I ever had, a heedless and happy time. My parents, as well as the earth itself. My dad was always good for a time. If I worked him carefully my mother was all ways there with a kiss or a hug or a cool hand when I was hurt or scared or sick.

The world was a pleasant place then, too. What I remember most vividly is that it was so quiet and easygoing, compared to the world of today. Men worked 48 or 50 hours a week. But very few of them had televisions. Women had none of the appliances they have today. But they didn't need sleeping pills. People walked more. Everybody put his car up on blocks in the winter, and no body drove at night, unless he had a permit. Women had none of the appliances they have today. But they didn't need sleeping pills. People walked more. Everybody put his car up on blocks in the winter, and no body drove at night, unless he had a permit.

Everyone forty or over knows what happened in the next decade. Our economy came apart at the seams and the world entered the long, grinding years of the great depression. Canada suffered less than some, but enough. People swallowed their pride and went on relief. Thousands of men rode the rails from town to town, looking for work, begging for food. There was no work. Those who had jobs took pay cuts without a murmur, and lived in fear of worse.

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THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1941

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 5, 1941

The breaking and entering of garages and service stations has become almost an epidemic here. On Thursday night attempts were made to enter Norton Motors and Tyler's Service station. In both instances the thieves had not taken into consideration that the proprietor's living quarters are in part of the same building and they were frightened away. At Tyler's, the thieves, after arousing Mr. Tyler, drove away without paying after having gasoline put in their tank. Chief Harrop and provincial police are investigating.

Rev. A. W. Fosbury of Elmira has accepted the charge at the United Church here following the resignation of the present minister, Rev. Clifton Gifford, who has accepted a call to Dresden near London.

Acton will have a big Victory Loan parade on Saturday evening, which is being carried out by the Acton Branch of the Canadian Legion. The parade will finish at the soldiers' monument on Mill St. where there will be a brief address and, Rev. Chalmers will hoist the Victory Loan flag. The Lorne Scots Band will lead the parade and the militia, Legion, Civil Guard and local organizations will take part.

Two window displays of special merit have been made here in connection with the Victory Loan drive. The entire windows of Johnstone and Rumble's has been devoted to a splendid arrangement carried out by Mr. E. E. Barr through the Acton Branch of the Canadian Legion. One of the large windows of Elliott Bros. was devoted to another display, complete with miniature soldiers, tanks and other war equipment. It was arranged by Elliott Bros. Both windows have been a subject of much favourable comment and interest.

During the council meeting Tuesday evening it was agreed to purchase an "Auntie" which would make a good gift for the night constable at a cost of \$80. The station keys were made at \$4 each. Council also agreed to purchase gravel for the streets and ordered a quantity of calcium chloride to wear the dust down.

Then the Fifties, as I entered my thirties. Into the weekly newspaper business and working like a dog. Delighting in my babies. Thrill of the first second-hand car. Fun of buying an old house and trying it up. Satisfaction in turning out a good paper, sometimes. Good fishing and hunting. Good friends. But the world speeding up, the big bomb banging there, the job always demanding.

And now, in my forties, we'll see what the Sixties have in store for me and the world. Always, a new job, new friends, new interests, for me. New tests, new threats, new weapons, and new worlds, for the world. All I can add is that I'm supposed to be at the dangerous age. I hope the world isn't. There hasn't been a dull moment in the last four decades, for either of us. I hope we're both around to tell about it, when I enter my seventies, in 1981.

Commission for the town and district. The town and district appears to be growing and expanding as a tourist centre but is not attracting any new industry.

I could not help but notice that the movie theatre is still operating regularly and providing programs. Also I noted that the old post office building was still vacant and had a For Sale sign posted. Apparently the town does not want the building for municipal purposes at the price being asked for it.

There were many changes in the 10 years or so and I could not help but notice some of them. I ought to tell you that our daughter and son-in-law and their family are now residents of Bracebridge so we may get back there more often than at three decade intervals.

Most children like to taste anything mother is cooking. When vegetables are being prepared, for the meal if the children ask for samples, they should be given bits of the raw vegetables, since these are richer in vitamins and minerals than those which have been soaked and cooked, often for longer than the advisable minimum time.

The liquid in which vegetables are cooked or canned should not be thrown out, since it is rich in minerals and vitamins which have been drawn from the vegetables while cooking. Use this liquid to enrich gravies, soups, vegetable drinks or stew.

BACK IN 1911

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 1, 1911

G. A. Black's saddle stallion, "Tragedy," got loose in the stable on Sunday afternoon and was kicked in the front leg by another horse. The kick fractured the leg above the knee and it was found necessary to shoot the animal in order to put it out of misery. The horse was bought in Kentucky some years ago by Joseph Seagram, Waterloo, for \$4,000, when a yearling colt. He made a track record and maintained it for six years. Mr. Black purchased the valued horse three years ago and regrets deeply the loss of such a fine animal.

According to the judgment of the high court, no cigars, cigarettes, candy, ice cream or soft drinks may be sold here on Sunday days even if the vendors do call them drugs or food.

During Monday night's council meeting David Folster was engaged as chief engineer for the Fire Brigade at a salary of \$40, and his assistant will be Ernest Macklin at a salary of \$35.

Council also agreed to go out with a band of volunteers of Fire and Church St. following receipt of permission granted by the majority of residents. Lawn mowing season opened Friday evening when a group from Georgetown started here and after a few miles the Acton team came out for a few miles. It was an energetic gathering for the first attempt this year and everyone enjoyed lunch and a social time at the conclusion.

The parade against bushwhacking or selling firecrackers was well attended and the children and some of the volunteers were in uniform. Everyone seems to realize the danger resulting from them and in surrounding their children to them.

Several cases of grain feeding have been reported in the district. Circumstantial evidence points to being somewhere in the district. The town took place from the grain and public in conducting a thorough investigation.

The warm rain yesterday was welcomed by the farmers and crops are beginning to show results of the work earlier in the season. Some of the grain is appearing quite healthy and already produce is beginning to pop up from the ground.

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