

Changing role of government...

County Councils are on the way out in New Brunswick and Minister of Education W. Meldrum suggested to a group from across Canada, at the annual convention of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association, the changes in administration would affect other provinces across the country.

It was a subject of considerable interest to us as we await the report on local government in Halton and Peel from T. Plunkett.

The New Brunswick plan, despite strong opposition, will eliminate the county council. The province will bear the full cost of general services to people such as education, health, welfare and justice. The local municipality will provide services to property such as streets, parks, water, sewage, industrial development, local police, tourist promotion and such items.

With the province's acceptance of the responsibility for education will go implementation of a province-wide teachers' salary schedule. The number of school boards will be cut from over 400 to 34 and one room schools will be discontinued.

The province will be assessed on a uniform basis and construction of hospitals will be entirely by the province. Formerly a municipality had been required to raise 25 per cent of the cost. The location of such facilities will now be established on need rather than the ability to pay.

Welfare will be taken over by the province. In one case it was learned the Social Welfare committee's fees were presently based on a percentage of the welfare budget while in another case, one of the committee was receiving social welfare. Under the new program it will be paid and administered by the province.

Many jails, long out of date, will be eliminated and crown prosecutors and sheriffs will become civil servants eliminating the patronage appointments of former years.

In New Brunswick there are no county roads as there are in Ontario so this was not a problem in eliminating county councils.

"You need not assume that this is only of academic interest to you either, because our success or failure in this program of municipal reform, will very

The means test...

Those responsible for waging the Government's War on Poverty will be faced, sooner or later, with the need to take a long hard look at the 'means test' as a state-supported policy capable not only of causing, but prolonging indigence. An unskilled laborer with a family, whose chances for full-time employment are limited, will use every ruse he can think of to avoid being employed on a temporary basis, because he'll be cut off social assistance if his income should rise above that which is allowable under the 'means test'. He would rather draw social assistance, however limited, and have something coming in regularly, than accept temporary employment which will, because it is temporary, create more problems financially and in terms of red tape than it will solve. It takes a man of strong moral character to escape the snare of social assistance once he has accepted it. Like a rabbit in a trap, once in he finds it next to impossible to escape.

The 'means test' also fosters habits of deception and dishonesty. Since a man can't usually support his family adequately on social assistance, he wants to have his cake and eat it too. He will accept casual employment and fail to report it. Having done this a few times it becomes for him a way of life. This furtive approach to life often encourages him to turn toward activities which are on the shady side of the law, mostly because these can be carried out without having to be reported, making it less likely that his 'moonlighting' will be detected by the authorities. What is the solution to this problem?

There is a basic minimum income required by every Canadian family, if they are to live above the poverty level. Income beyond this basic level becomes taxable income — the only control on income required. Since it is generally conceded that the unskilled laborer is not likely to find full-time employment, why not allow him to earn up to the taxable income by casual labor before he is penalized?

This simple change in our regulations would not only end a lot of hypocrisy, it would in this day of automation and job displacement, help a lot of responsible Canadians over the hump of transition from one job to another, without reducing them to a state of permanent indigence.

The penny's obsolete...

From The Dutton (Ont.) Advance
So obsolete has become the penny that a large toy manufacturer has announced that its line of penny banks is being discontinued. From now on, the company's toy banks will be geared to take only nickels, dimes and quarters. Come to think of it, about all a penny is good for today is to pay sales tax and now even that takes a nickel on the dollar.

The contempt with which even youngsters view a penny today was

much affect the future of local government in each of your home Provinces", the speaker emphasized.

"I have predicted and I think I'm being conservative in this, that within a decade some at least and in some cases all of the procedures we are trying now will be adopted to cure the ills of municipal government in other jurisdictions", the Education Minister suggested.

It may well be that this type of government reform in New Brunswick will be reflected in the report from Mr. Plunkett for Halton and Peel. Indeed in Ontario already the number of school jurisdictions has been significantly reduced. Whether the county level of government is also becoming unnecessary or whether it is to be strengthened in some new regional form, is still a matter of conjecture.

The Minister of Education for New Brunswick, however, is a keen advocate and an able promoter of the program adopted by that province.

"We feel that the formula worked out can provide that in all parts of our province the citizen will be able to receive an equal level of service for an equal rate of tax, regardless of his, or his community's ability to pay".

The program is having a rough time from the press of New Brunswick. It was therefore surprising to find in private conversations with several N.B. weekly publishers their genuine support for the program.

They could point to instances where one teacher in a one room school had over 100 pupils; of instances where the one room school was, with one teacher, running classes half days for one group and the other half for another; of instances where one school of over 60 pupils couldn't get three to a high school level.

"The office of government is not to confer happiness but to give men opportunity to work out happiness for themselves. We have no utopia here, nor will we have, but we are not ashamed of our province, nor need we be", the Education Minister concluded.

And perhaps we will be learning from New Brunswick too, in this part of Ontario, where local government is being put under the microscope, not only in Halton and Peel, but in other districts as well.

My wife, who turns into a Go-Go Girl when she gets into a hotel room and has not got any meals or dishes or laundry to worry about, suggested we hit the coffee-house circuit. My daughter, whose foremost desire is to do just that, but by herself, demurred.

"Who wants to go there with parents? And besides, I hear they don't allow old people into them."

"Waddya mean, old people?" chorused her Old Lady and her Old Man.

"When the kid realized there wasn't a hope of getting into that teenage jungle on her own, she graciously permitted us to go along."

brought home to us in a local store recently. When the clerk offered pennies in change to an eight-year-old he shrugged his shoulders and said "I don't want them."

This is quite a change from not so many years ago when a kid with a couple of pennies was pretty well fixed. He would stand before the candy counter for a matter of minutes figuring out how to get the most for the coppers clutched in his hand.



INTERESTED YOUNGSTERS listen carefully as missionary Miss Marilyn Weismore tells a Bible story during one of the summer vacation Bible school classes. The classes are sponsored by the Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ontario. Listening attentively Tuesday are Kevin Harrison, Cheryl Williams, David Williams, Kenneth Swan, John Scoyne, Scott Malcolm, Barbara Reed, Heather Reed, Janeen Stewart, Garry Scoyne, Michael Morris, Monica Heptner, Marie Harness, David Morris, Linda Shadbol, Judy Scoyne, Linda Stewart and Helen Robertson. Over 100 youngsters are taking part in the five-day Bible school.

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Burning desire of most city people in the blazing heat of mid-summer is to flee from the concrete canyons and head north, where there is cool, blue water and golden sand and you sleep under blankets.

Well we live in the north, comparatively, and usually it's just as the city denizens picture it.

But this summer, after sleeping under nothing but a film of sweat for three weeks, we decided to seek refuge from the heat.

How do you do it? Head farther north? Nope, you head south for the city and check into an air-conditioned hotel. With a swimming pool.

It was done on impulse, with no room reservation. We were lucky. After four phone calls, we found ourselves ensconced in a fine big room, cool as a tomb, overlooking the swank swimming pool. And yet it was right in the heart of the city.

Very pleasant. Free parking and free ice cubes appeal to my Scottish strain.

We called a few people, and by 8 o'clock the joint was jumping, room service was on the gallop, and the room was filled with everything from teenagers to a grandmother who had just knocked off her 79th birthday and was prepared to celebrate the event till dawn.

Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed, and by 11 p.m. all had gone their various ways. What to do? Too late for dinner or a show. Too early for bed.

"Who wants to go there with parents? And besides, I hear they don't allow old people into them."

"Waddya mean, old people?" chorused her Old Lady and her Old Man.

"When the kid realized there wasn't a hope of getting into that teenage jungle on her own, she graciously permitted us to go along."

Ontario lures U. S. tourists

Figures for the first five months of 1966 indicate that Ontario is in for a record-breaking tourist year, according to Honorable James Auld, Ontario Minister of Tourism and Information.

Mr. Auld said that figures show an increase of nearly 13 per cent in the number of U.S. automobiles entering the province for the months of January to May, 1966, compared with a similar period last year.

The remainder of Canada showed an increase of only six per cent. The number of traveller's vehicle permits issued at Ontario border points for the five months totalled 1,801,043, a gain of 205,944, over the January-May period a year ago.

"These figures," Mr. Auld said, "show the pre-eminent role played by Ontario in Canadian tourism. They also illustrate the rapidly increasing importance of tourism in the Ontario economy."

A factor in this increased winter and spring business, the minister said, is his department's year-round advertising campaign and special skiing promotions. Last year, the minister said, U.S. tourist spending in Ontario alone totalled an estimated \$333,400,000. This is an increase of just less than 80 per cent since 1959 when U.S. spending in the province totalled \$185,000,000.

Ontario, he emphasized, receives 56 per cent of all U.S. tourist spending in

And that's how we found ourselves in famous, or infamous, Yorkville, at midnight, with about 4,000 young people strolling up and down the sacred couple of blocks, on their nightly pilgrimage.

Within five minutes, we'd been spotted by one of my students, who seemed delighted to catch Mr. Smiley in the act, so to speak. We took refuge in a cellar joint.

Maybe I'm getting old and crusty. But the coffee houses have changed greatly, and for the worse, in the five years since I've been there.

Then, they were run by enthusiastic amateurs, you could spend a whole evening for a dollar and a quarter, and the music was provided by young folk singers, some lousy, some good, but all serious and rather sweet.

Now they've gone commercial. There's a stillish cover charge, coffee is 50 cents a wallop and rotten, and the music, provided by groups whose sole purpose seems to be to drive you out of your skull, is one great blast of electronic noise and shouting.

Ironically, the places have become too expensive for most of the young people they were intended for. Perhaps that's why they walk up and down outside in one vast, rolling crowd that is always potentially a mob.

Oh, well, it was a good weekend. We had budgeted for one night only. But we didn't wake up until checkout time, it was still steaming hot outside, and the girls came up with some of that weird feminine logic which proved that we could afford it if we cut down on something or other. So I was hooked for another 24 hours of pretending to be a millionaire.

We loated, swam, watched the real rich people spoiling their kids, had an Italian dinner, and took in Eric Nicol's comedy, catching three seats in the second row, by pure luck. Enjoyed it, but I'm afraid it will hit Broadway about the same year I win the Nobel prize.

And home Sunday, up the highway north, rested and refreshed, laughing all the way at those sun-burned, exhausted vacationers pouring south, on their way back from the sizzling north to the tropical city.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, August 15, 1946.

Ward 1 of Esquesing Township paid tribute to one of her sons who gave his life in the war and made presentations to 24 men who served in the armed forces at a celebration at Milton Fair Grounds. J. E. Whitlock was master of ceremonies and Murray Sprout spoke on behalf of the citizens. In tribute to the memory of Pre. David Harrop, two minutes' silence was observed. M. J. Carton was chairman and may well feel proud of the event.

With the thought in mind of promoting finer home grounds and gardens, Acton fair this year will offer two substantial prizes for grounds and homes. Another war casualty will return to the fair. The hall exhibit and arena show will again be featured.

The new bowling green at Rockwood is presenting a fine appearance and the tennis court opposite the post office is completed.

The Smith clan met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. Davidson for their first reunion since the war. Between 70 and 80 sat down to supper on the lawn. Six of the clan were welcomed home from the war.

Subject to the approval of the War Labor Board, Local 26 of the National Shoe and Leather Workers' Union has reached a new agreement with Beardmore and Co. Employees who have been with the company for two years will now receive two weeks' holiday with pay. Statutory holidays are Christmas and New Year's Day. The working week will be reduced to 45 hours distributed over five days, provided the present production is maintained. A scale of minimum rates has been set up.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, August 17, 1916.

The fine piazza and entrance to Knox church mans are about completed and are a decided improvement to the appearance of the premises.

The families of Messrs. John R. Kennedy, James L. Warren, W. Johnstone and principal Stewart have been camping at Blue Springs park this week.

The foundations are being put in for Mr. Robert Watson's new residence on Church St.

A proposition will come before the Board of Education shortly for the teaching of music in the public school.

Please don't drop empty envelopes, paper bags, circulars etc. on the street. The Red Cross wants them all and all tidy citizens want the streets to be clean and attractive.

Givic Holiday was evidently too much for some of our Austrian citizens. The day was spent in the barrooms and a sequel to this bibulous bout was a most unseemly drunken row among friends and relatives, men and women who knew each other in the old country.

A dairy wedding was solemnized at the home of the bride's parents, Lake Ave., last Thursday afternoon when Miss Annie A. Harvey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Harvey, became the bride of Mr. A. W. Somerville of Fort William. Rev. J. C. Wilson, B.A., performed the ceremony.

40,000 farm laborers wanted — \$12 to Winnipeg.

TRINITY CHURCH
(The United Church of Canada)
Minister: Rev. Dwight I. Engel, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D., Minister
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A., Organist and Choir Master

COMBINED SUMMER SERVICES:
At Knox Presbyterian Church
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1966 — at 10.00 a.m.
Preacher: Rev. D. Engel

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Acton, Ontario.
Rev. Wiebe Van Dijk. Phone 853-1585

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1966
10.00 a.m.—English Service.
2.30 p.m.—Dutch Service.
3.45 p.m.—Sunday School.

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Georgetown)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1966
9.45 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service.
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer meeting.
Acton 853-1956 Georgetown 877-6066

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1966
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship Service.
7.00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday, 8 p.m.—C.A. Service.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR
ANGLICAN
Corner Willow and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B., Minister
Trinity XI
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1966
9.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
During August the main service will be at 10 a.m. with sermon and music.
10.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tidev Ave., Ph. 853-1615

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1966
9.45 a.m.—Church School, Adult Class.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship
Speaker: Mr. Ronald Campbell of Dearborn, Mich. Subject: "You have been called."

There will be no evening services during July and August.
Wednesday—Prayer and Bible Study, 7.30.
Thursday 7.30 p.m.—Choir practice.
All visitors welcome to our services.
Doctrines we preach and believe: The Virgin Birth, The Deity of Christ, His Bodily Resurrection, The Second Coming.

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