

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

— serving the communities of —
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The Editor's Column

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Perhaps we run the risk of becoming monotonous in our frequent remarks in this column concerning high school districts, but we feel it is a matter which should not be allowed to drop without considerable more publicity. Last week we did not get a chance to review the latest developments. It was a foregone conclusion that the by-law setting up a North Halton district would be passed at the June meeting of County Council. We had expected there might be more than one dissenting vote, but Deputy-Reeve Jack Armstrong was apparently the only one who realized the implications of the closing of the Acton and Milton high schools — a sad reflection on the faith of the elected representatives in the future of their towns, when an outsider has more faith than themselves. The rural representatives, of course, could scarcely vote otherwise, as whatever happens they stand to lose nothing and gain something wherever a new school be built.

We believe that we speak for the majority in Georgetown, when we reaffirm that our faith in the normal growth of the town justifies the existence of a high school here and that like Mayor Gibbons and the majority of Council and School Board members, we are opposed to any proposition which would close our school. We do not pretend that GHS is the best school in the world. We do not claim that anything in Georgetown cannot be bettered by something bigger, be it church or manufacturing concern or store, theatre, arena, or what-have-you. But the disadvantages of a small town are its very advantages and we for one are thankful to live outside the confinements of the super city.

Have any of the Acton or Milton members thought of the disadvantages of the wonderful central school. Have they considered such factors as winter transportation, disruption of home life, supervision of students during noon-hours, lack of convenient medical facilities, fire protection, to name but a few. Have they considered that the larger the school, the less individual attention by the teachers who cannot have as complete a knowledge of home conditions. Have they considered the days a student will miss school when for one reason or another he may miss the bus and have no means of attending classes six or eight miles away.

We cannot help thinking that the Acton and Milton County Councillors have sold out their towns under the influence of glib paper theorists like School Inspector Stewart, and we are glad that Georgetown's representatives are sufficiently strong in character to stand up for their ideals. Let us hope that public opinion in our neighbouring towns will express itself before the final step is taken and a white elephant is erected at Speyside.

"DEAF PEDDLERS" ARE RACKETEERS

On several occasions we have been approached by individuals selling a printed "deaf alphabet" card, saying that the bearer is "deaf and dumb" and cannot find employment, etc. Like the majority of good-intentioned people we have usually dug down for a dime or a quarter, believing that we were helping some individual. A circular from the Ontario Association for the Deaf was sent to our office last week and we find that this is not the case and that the business is just another racket. Ninety-five per cent of those engaged in this racket are able-bodied individuals able to do an honest day's work, but they find the public so gullible that an easier living can be made by taking advantage of public sentimentality — so much so that a few individuals with organizing ability have gangs going from town to town, turning the "take" into the gang leader who doles out a percentage to each member of the gang.

"It may surprise you to know" says the Association, "that it is not uncommon for individuals to make as high as \$150 a week from selling alphabet cards."

Continuing they say: "Hotel beverage rooms, pool parlors and other public gathering places are favourite stamping grounds for these nuisances. They go in beverage rooms and lay the alphabet cards before the patrons of each table and then come around to collect the donations. In most cases the patrons give them a dime or a quarter without taking the cards which are then taken up to be used again elsewhere. Some individuals carry engraved printing plates with them so that when the supply of cards runs out they can have more printed wherever they happen to be. The same tactics are observed in pool parlors, while on house to house canvasses the dime store goods serve as a false front.

The Ontario Association of the Deaf takes a serious view of the activities of these peddlers, inasmuch as the Association placed upwards of 135 individuals

duals in good jobs at its own expense, many of whom made from \$40 to \$50 a week. Their activities give the great mass of honest, hard-working deaf a black eye and make it all the harder for them to secure employment when necessary. Some of these peddlers travel from coast to coast. That costs money, yet they can do it and staying at hotels costs more than the average worker can afford, yet these peddlers can afford that luxury. The O.A.D. knows of cases where such peddlers have graduated into petty embezzlers. The great difficulty in bringing these to book is getting the victims to lay charges.

In this campaign to stamp out these unprincipled individuals, we have the backing of Better Business Bureaux, and the National Employment Service. We ask that hotel managers deny these persons the privilege of peddling in their beverage rooms, and that municipalities carefully scrutinize their requests for peddling licenses and that the Provincial and Municipal Police check up on individual or gangs of such peddlers as may be operating within their jurisdiction from time to time.

May we have your co-operation?"

AMERICAN DISCOUNT EXPLAINED

Anent a recent article in this column in which we expressed disapproval of the American habit of charging Canadians an exorbitant rate of exchange on Canadian money, we have a letter from Ab Welk of Tilbury, former Bank of Montreal manager here, enclosing a booklet issued in April by the Foreign Exchange Control Board.

The Booklet points out that two types of money markets exist. The "official" market takes care of all exchange transactions in Canada. For example, an American receiving a Canadian dollar interest or dividend cheque, or Canadian dollars in payment for a shipment of goods to Canada, can send the record of payment to a Canadian bank with instructions to convert into United States dollars. These conversions are readily effected and funds are provided out of official Canadian reserves of U.S. dollars at the official rate.

The "unofficial" market gets its basic supply of Canadian dollars in bank balances held by non-residents in Canada at the time when foreign exchange control was introduced in September, 1939. At the present time, these bank balances cannot be converted into U.S. funds out of official reserves in Canada, but they can be transferred freely between one non-resident and another in the unofficial market. Other inconvertibles are added by sales by Americans of various kinds of

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capital assets in Canada. Sale of securities bought by Americans for cash since 1940, sale of real estate and proceeds from maturing securities payable solely in Canadian dollars are transferred to Americans in inconvertible funds.

The demand for Canadian funds through the unofficial market arises mainly from the use which can be made of Canadian dollars so obtained for capital investment in Canada. Americans who wish to buy Canadian securities, or to purchase real estate in Canada or to make loans or investments in Canada, can buy Canadian funds on the unofficial market for this purpose.

The rate quoted for the Canadian dollars in the unofficial market depends upon supply and demand in a narrow market. The supply consists of capital items in the hands of non-residents which they are unable to convert into U.S. funds at the official rate. The demand is mainly for capital investment in Canada by non-residents. If the supply exceeds the demand, a discount will arise — this discount really representing an inducement offered by one American to another to take over a capital investment in Canada which he cannot convert into U.S. funds through official channels at the official rates.

So far as Canadian banknotes and coins are concerned, it has unfortunately always been the case that merchants and even many banks in the United States have been reluctant to handle them, and if they are ready to accept them at all, charge a discount which has little relation even to the rate quoted in New York. It should be kept in mind that no Canadian should be under the necessity of accepting this discount as U.S. funds for reasonable travel expenditures can be obtained at the official rate (at present one half of one per cent) in Canada.

LIMEHOUSE — KNOX PICNIC AT MILES PARK

The best attended picnic in some years was held by the congregations of Knox and Limehouse Presbyterian Churches last Saturday. Fortunately it was the first real summer's day after a cold, rainy spring. About one hundred children and adults sat down to supper after an afternoon of races and games. The animals in the zoo came in for their share of attention too. Mrs. Harvey Norton and Miss Jean Martin were picnic conveners.

Winners of races were:
 Children:
 4 and under—Donny McGill, Joy Barber
 6 and under—Paddy Given, Barbara Alcott
 Boys:
 8 and under—Bobby Carey, Keith Tracey
 10 and under—Bobby Tracey, John Cobean
 12 and under—Arthur McHughan, Terry McGill
 15 and under—Ross Norton, Stuart Alexander
 Open—Stuart Alexander, John Cobean.
 Girls:
 8 and under—Marna Mackenzie, Gloria Bain
 10 and under—Muriel Appleyard, Mary McOutigan
 12 and under—Marna Mackenzie, Muriel Appleyard
 15 and under—Dolores Herrington, Doreen Appleyard
 Open—Dolores Herrington, Marna Mackenzie

HALTON HOSPITALIZATION PLAN NOW INCORPORATED

After several months of intensive study of Rural Health and Group Hospitalization Plans, Halton Farm People have now taken action in the formation of a co-operative to be known as Halton Co-operative Medical Services and have received their incorporation charter with a total of two hundred and sixty members, all of whom have paid their yearly premiums in advance.

The Halton Co-operative Medical Services result from nineteen groups of Halton farm folk banding together at farm forums, Women's Institutes, home and school clubs and Junior Farmers.

A members' meeting is now being called of all the individual members to confirm By-Laws, etc. and to nominate and elect a permanent Board of Directors to carry on the business of the Co-operative.

One of the best parts of a vacation is the welcome one gets from his home town people when he returns.

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